

# UA Rejects Election Process Changes

By Waseem S. Daher  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Undergraduate Association Senate defeated a bill modifying the procedure for electing senators representing fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups.

In its meeting yesterday evening, the UA Senate reviewed a bill that would set up a committee to change how senators from the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association are elected.

In addition, the Senate passed a resolution affirming its support for the IFC's attempt to reserve Killian Court for the beginning of Rush.

Mary Callahan, MIT's registrar, addressed the Senate to speak about WebSIS, MIT's student information system.

The UA also allocated money for the Muses, DomeView, an orientation kick-off party, wellness seminars, and UA office renovation.

Finally, the new officers of the Undergraduate Association were sworn in and formally took office.

## IFC, Panhel seek voting reform

The rationale behind the bill jointly proposed by Panhel and the

SAE, Page 9

By Ray C. He  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A transmission line equipment failure at the Putnam Street NSTAR substation resulted in power losses across the MIT campus yesterday afternoon, said MIT Superintendent of Utilities Roger Moore.

David Branda, a customer service representative for NSTAR, the natural gas and electricity supplier for Cambridge, said that "a large portion of Cambridge was without power for about an hour and ten minutes."

Power at MIT was off for a longer period than in Cambridge because MIT needed to gradually return to the power grid in order to avoid overloading the system, said Bernard J. Richard, manager of mechanical, electrical, and piping services at the Department of Facilities.

Many classes were cancelled following the power outage and several laboratories experienced problems with experiments.

## MIT generator stops functioning

After a 115 kilovolt cable fault occurred at the Putnam substation, "the generator station at Kendall was tripped," said Moore.

The MIT Cogeneration project, which provides most of the power to the MIT campus, is "closely connected to that substation," he said. "They lost their source and momentarily we were pumping into the grid much higher than we could sustain," he said.

Normally the generator at MIT will continue to power MIT even if NSTAR experiences short duration

dips in voltage, but this was not the case yesterday, he said.

"We normally generate 18 megawatts of our own power," Richard said. The plant can power 80 percent of the buildings on campus, said Peter Cooper, director of utilities. Any demand over this capacity is purchased from NSTAR, according to the cogeneration plant Web site.

The plant will need to be inspected for damage from the power failures before returning to operation, Cooper said. "We must be sure that we're not doing more damage," he said.

Moore said that power to MIT was restored by 4 p.m.

## Emergency power not consistent

In most buildings, such as Building 10, emergency power turned on almost immediately after main power stopped. However, over fifteen minutes passed before backup generators started in buildings such as W20 and W84.

As of last night, the facilities department did not know what prevented the emergency power from turning on in these buildings, Richard said. A delay "is not normally supposed to happen," he said.

Backup generators are in every building on campus, Richard said. "Primarily, the emergency generators power the lights so people can get out of the building," he said. "They also support critical operations," like delicate experiments.

Some cold rooms used for cancer research in E19 were not part of

Power Loss, Page 18



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

A backup power generator in Ashdown was brought online after yesterday's campus-wide electricity failure and triggered the release of steam from piping outside the building. Concerned residents alerted the Cambridge Fire department. See photos, page 15.

# Financial State of the Institute Likely To Improve

By Kathy Dobson  
STAFF REPORTER

President Charles M. Vest, Provost Robert A. Brown, and Executive Vice President John R. Curry

spoke to the MIT community yesterday at a State of the Institute forum on a number of topics, including the Institute's budget and its changing research and curriculum.

As a result of yesterday's power outage, which affected the entire MIT campus and much of East Cambridge, the forum was abbreviated and could not be held inside

Kresge auditorium, which lacked lighting, and was instead held in the lobby.

## 2006 budget will grow

After reviewing the budget constraints that faced the Institute in the past year, Brown said that there will be budget growth in next year's budget, including raises, capital plans, and renovations. The cuts have caused "uniform pain across the Institute," Brown said, but the Institute will "move ahead in the next budget year to the same tradition we've had."

Cuts in the budget for the coming year included the elimination of eleven unfilled faculty positions, a salary freeze for those making \$55,000 or more, reduction in the number of graduate fellowships, and a reduction in the Institute's tuition subsidy for graduate students, said Brown.

Curry said that he is optimistic about the financial state of the Institute but has yet to see the impacts of the cuts made. "We are pleased we made it through this budget year," he said. "We will all learn the impacts of the cuts as we look back on the year."

Curry also said that the budget

Institute, Page 17

# Survey Helps Choose W20 Vendor

By Tongyan Lin  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Approximately 750 people have completed the dining survey that will help determine the vendor to replace Arrow St. Crepes in the student center, said Director of Campus Dining Richard D. Berlin III.

The survey, which was released online Friday, April 16, will close at the end of this week. Berlin said they intend to select a vendor by the end of this month, after the results have been compiled and discussed with the Campus Dining Board.

## Student input an important factor

So far, the results, "seemed to vary from independent restaurants" to brand names, Berlin said.

Berlin said that a number of students had filled out Anna's Taqueria as their choice of vendor, but that he was "not prejudging" any of the options.

The survey is important because it is "the vehicle we are using to evaluate our options," Berlin said.

While he hopes to select the

Arrow Street, Page 16



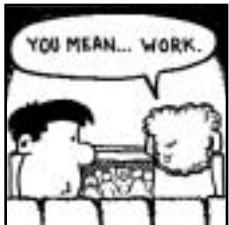
JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

President Vest speaks in the lobby of Kresge Auditorium after yesterday's power outage rendered it dark. The State of the Institute Forum, at which President Vest, Provost Brown, and Executive VP John Curry were scheduled to speak, was abbreviated in the wake of the power loss.



Senior House holds its annual steer roast.

Page 10



Comics

Page 12

## NEWS BRIEFS

Uzamere, Faber give no reimbursements for hacking fines.

Course VI students get new club.

Page 9

World & Nation ..... 2  
Opinion ..... 4  
Arts ..... 6  
Sports ..... 20



# WORLD & NATION

## Kerry to Spend \$25M on Image Ads

THE BOSTON GLOBE

WASHINGTON

John F. Kerry Monday announced a \$25 million advertising campaign, the largest single buy of either presidential campaign this year and one that comes as some Democrats have expressed concern that many voters know Kerry only by President Bush's ads.

Two new spots to air this month in battleground states are designed to introduce Kerry to voters as a lifelong public servant in the military in Vietnam, a prosecutor and lieutenant governor in Massachusetts, and a member in Congress. The ad buy is aimed at countering over \$70 million in Bush ads that have aired on radio, TV, and cable since early March. Most of those ads portray the Massachusetts senator as an equivocator who would weaken the country's national defense if elevated to the White House.

That criticism is expected to find new voices Wednesday when a group of Vietnam veterans, including some who served as Kerry's commanding officers, plan to say at a news conference that they believe Kerry is unfit to be commander-in-chief. Three of the officers said their main complaint was that Kerry declared after serving in Vietnam that he and other American personnel had committed atrocities — a statement he has since said was too harsh.

## Sharon Planning to Modify Gaza Withdrawal Plan

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

A day after his own party dealt him a resounding defeat, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday that he would modify his plan for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and would continue pressing for its approval, members of his party who met with him said.

Sharon's right-wing Likud Party rejected the Gaza pullout proposal 60 percent to 40 percent in a referendum on Sunday, forcing the prime minister to re-evaluate the future of his main political initiative.

Sunday's vote had no legal standing, and Sharon remains free to seek formal government approval for the measure. But the defeat has cost him the political momentum and has raised questions about the stability of his coalition government, which is barely a year old.

In talks on Monday with Likud members of Parliament, Sharon said he would not abandon the plan, though he acknowledged that it would be altered, participants in the meeting said.

"The people of Israel elected us in order to find the way to achieve calm, security and peace and to advance Israel's economy, and this is what I intend to do," Sharon said in a prepared statement.

## 'Sasser' Worm Exploits Windows Security Flaw

THE BOSTON GLOBE

A malicious computer worm dubbed "Sasser" that exploits a security flaw in Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system has infected thousands of computers worldwide since it was first detected Friday.

"It's pretty ugly," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for antivirus software maker Sophos Inc. Customer service facilities at Westpac, a major bank in Australia, were crippled as computers were overwhelmed by the worm. The Internet news service CNet also reported that more than 1,000 computers at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst were infected.

Sasser doesn't do permanent damage to infected computers. Instead, it can overwhelm computer networks as it tries to send out additional copies of itself. Unlike other recent computer worms, Sasser is not spread by opening an e-mail attachment.

The worm takes advantage of a weakness in Microsoft's Windows 2000 and Windows XP operating system. An infected machine sends probes throughout corporate networks or the Internet, looking for other computers with the same software flaw and infecting them.

# Panel: Death Penalty Can Be Reinstated With Safeguards

By Scott S. Greenberger

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Massachusetts can create a capital punishment system that is "as infallible as humanly possible" by narrowly defining the eligible crimes and requiring the use of DNA or other scientific evidence, according to a report that will be released Monday by a panel appointed by Governor Mitt Romney.

The panel of specialists is recommending that Massachusetts mete out capital punishment for what it calls the "worst of the worst" crimes. The new system would require jurors to have "no doubt" of guilt — a higher hurdle than the customary "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard — to sentence a defendant to death. And it would establish a series of reviews — by scientific experts and the courts — to attempt to protect the innocent from execution.

Romney, who convened the 11-member commission of lawyers, law enforcement officials, and forensic scientists last September, wants to reinstate the death penalty in Massachusetts, which abolished capital punishment in 1984 and has not executed anyone since 1947. It is one of a dozen states without the

death penalty.

The governor's goal is to sway a reluctant Legislature — both Senate President Robert E. Travaglini, Democrat of East Boston, and House Speaker Thomas M. Finneran, Democrat of Mattapan, a Boston neighborhood, have said they oppose the death penalty — by turning the controversy over death-row exonerations on its head: If DNA can be used to prove the innocence of death row inmates, he argues, it can also be used to prevent wrongful convictions.

Dr. Frederick R. Bieber, an associate professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School and a medical geneticist at Brigham and Women's Hospital who cochaired the commission, said the report has the potential "to influence things far beyond the borders of Massachusetts."

"We're humans, and you're not going to find anybody who can tell you that humans could never make a mistake," said Bieber, who declined to reveal his personal views on the death penalty. "But as much as is humanly possible, I and the others are of a common mind that if these recommendations were put in place in their entirety, we believe to a man, or woman, that the chance of

an erroneous conviction and execution would be vanishingly small."

Nevertheless, the safeguards envisioned in the 29-page report are not sufficient to satisfy many death-penalty critics.

The proposal "doesn't hit at enough of the real problems in the system that causes false convictions," said Harvey Silverglate, a Boston criminal defense and civil liberties attorney who says he opposes the death penalty because of the possibility of wrongful convictions, rather than on ethical grounds. "It hits at some of them, but not enough of them and surely not all of them."

Meanwhile, some death-penalty opponents, and supporters, say they believe the proposal is drawn so narrowly it will almost never result in a capital conviction.

Romney declined to comment before the official release of the report Monday, but when he created the panel last year he called for "a standard of proof that is incontrovertible."

"Just as science can be used to free the innocent, it can be used to identify the guilty," the governor said in announcing the formation of the commission.

# U.S. Commander Orders First Punishment in Abuse of Iraqis

By Thom Shanker and Dexter Filkins

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The senior U.S. commander in Iraq has ordered the first punishments in the abuse of prisoners by U.S. soldiers there, issuing severe reprimands to six who served in supervisory positions at Abu Ghraib prison and a milder "letter of admonishment" to a seventh.

The officers and noncommissioned officers received penalties that likely will end their military careers, although they were not demoted or discharged. They have not been charged with any criminal activity; six subordinates accused of carrying out the abuse already face criminal charges.

"They did not know or participate in any crimes," a senior U.S. officer in Baghdad said of the officers who received the reprimands, issued by Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, the senior U.S. commander in Iraq. "Their responsibility is to set the standards in the organization. They should have known, but they did not."

As more details emerged of widespread problems in the detention system in Iraq, President Bush on Monday telephoned Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld "to make sure that appropriate action was being taken against those responsible for these shameful, appalling acts," said Scott McClellan, the White House spokesman.

The military's investigative

report into the abuses of detainees in Iraq, by Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba, described broader problems in the prison system throughout Iraq, as well as pervasive flaws in the leadership, training and morale of military police assigned to guard Abu Ghraib and elsewhere in Iraq. It suggested that these problems had contributed to abuses of prisoners over many months, even after earlier instances were reported and punished.

The report found, for example, that after several detainees were beaten at Camp Bucca, another detention site in Iraq, in May 2003, nothing was done to make clear to military police elsewhere that this was not to be tolerated. Soldiers responsible for those earlier abuses were charged and punished late last year.

# WEATHER

## The Heat is Gone

By Michael J. Ring  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After the summerlike weather of late last week, today's forecast brings a return to reality with more seasonable temperatures and the threat of showers several days this week.

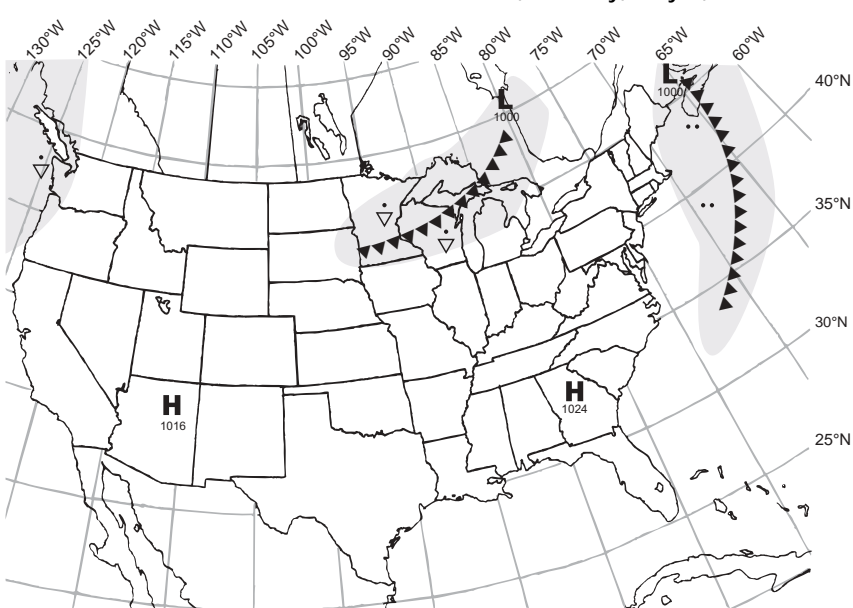
The meteorological conditions over the past few days have been a stark contrast at the different ends of the North American continent, thanks to different systems in the West and East. A weak ridge over the Southwest brought unseasonably warm temperatures west of the Rockies as the jet stream has been pushed northward toward Canada. Over the eastern half of the continent, however, the jet stream plunged southward, carrying with it the cooler temperatures seen in the East over the past few days.

As the trough and an associated front both slide eastward today we should see some clearing; however temperatures will remain seasonable throughout the week. Nor will the weather remain dry for the next few days — weak weather systems moving through on Wednesday and Thursday mean each day features the threat of showers.

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Rain ending, clearing late. High near 60°F (16°C).  
**Tonight:** Partly cloudy and cool. Low near 44°F (7°C).  
**Wednesday:** Cloudy with a chance of showers in the afternoon. High near 65 F (18°C). Low near 48 F (9°C).  
**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. High near 65°F (18°C). Low near 48°F (9°C).  
**Friday:** Clearing with continued seasonable temperatures. High near 65°F (18°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, May 4, 2004



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
<b>H</b> High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow	Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Light	Thunderstorm
<b>S</b> Hurricane	▲ Cold Front	Moderate	Haze
	— Stationary Front	Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Three-Fourths of Mass. Police Depts. Employ Racial Profiling

By Bill Dedman  
*THE BOSTON GLOBE*

Three out of four police departments in Massachusetts have engaged in racial profiling against nonwhite drivers, state Public Safety Secretary Edward A. Flynn is expected to announce Tuesday.

To monitor their interactions with citizens, Flynn could require police in as many as 249 departments, including state troopers, to fill out an extra form every time they pull over a motorist, even when they don't write a ticket or a warning.

Four years after the Legislature ordered a test for racial profiling in Massachusetts, police departments will receive their final grades Tuesday morning. Flynn is scheduled to release the final report of a state-sponsored study of traffic tickets by Northeastern University's Institute on Race and Justice, and to announce what standard he will set for requiring the additional paperwork. Northeastern posted the report on its Web site Monday night.

The attorney for the state's police

chiefs association predicted that many police officers will respond to Flynn's ruling by "de-policing," doing fewer traffic stops lest they give more ammunition to their critics.

"De-policing is a real possibility," said the attorney, John M. Collins, general counsel for the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. "When somebody is falsely accused, they're not going to continue to give you the bullets to shoot them with."

The Northeastern study confirms a Boston Globe study of the same traffic tickets last year: Minorities, especially men, are disproportionately ticketed and searched in most communities in the state. And when police officers decide whether to write a ticket or a warning, women are far more likely to get a break.

In applying the state law, police chiefs expected Flynn to be a tough grader, requiring the additional paperwork from police departments that show a disparity on any one of Northeastern's four statistical tests: ticketing resident minorities more than whites, compared with their

share of the resident population, as judged by the 2000 Census; ticketing all minorities more than whites, compared with their share of the driving population in the community, as estimated by Northeastern; searching minorities more often than whites; and issuing warnings to whites more often than to minorities.

Looking at Northeastern's final report on 341 communities, 92 communities got a passing grade on all tests. The largest community in the state that got an all-clear was Agawam, a Springfield suburb of 28,000 people.

In the Boston area, the only communities given a clean bill were the northern towns of Boxford, Danvers, Essex, Hamilton, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Middleton and Newbury; the northwest towns of Acton, Burlington, Carlisle, Concord, Groton, Harvard, North Reading, Reading, Westford and Winchester; the south towns of Duxbury, Halifax, Hanover, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, and Plympton; and the west towns of Medfield, Norfolk, and Plainville.

# Romney Seeks Mass. Income Tax Cut, Cites Economic Resurgence

By Scott Greenberger  
*THE BOSTON GLOBE*

Governor Mitt Romney called Monday for a \$225 million tax cut in the coming fiscal year, pointing to a resurgent economy that is sparking an "extraordinary growth in revenues" after four years of fiscal crisis.

The governor wants to cut the state income tax rate from 5.3 percent to 5 percent, which translates into an average of \$100 per taxpayer. Romney would also use some of the extra money to increase spending on substance abuse programs and homeland security, boost Medicaid reimbursement rates to hospitals and other health-care providers, and replenish the state's depleted rainy-day reserves. The governor did not specify how much he would spend in those areas.

In 2000, voters approved a gradual lowering of the income tax rate, which was 5.85 percent at the time, to 5 percent. But in the depths of the state's fiscal crisis in 2002, the Legislature froze the rate at the current 5.3 percent. Now that the state's economy is rumbling to life, Romney said, it is time to follow through with the full tax cut.

"It's time to carry out the will of the voters by lowering our tax rate

to 5 percent. Let's get this underway," Romney said at a State House news conference he called to unveil a new report on capital punishment. "That helps the taxpayers, it follows their voice at the ballot box, and it further stimulates our economy."

"It was the second election-year tax cut proposed by Romney in the last two weeks: the governor suggested a cut in the capital gains rate last month — to answer a court ruling — but he backed down after the Legislature came up with a revenue-neutral compromise. Monday, Democratic legislative leaders reacted coldly to Romney's proposed income tax cut, saying it was premature to proclaim the end of the state's fiscal crisis and unwise to cut taxes at the expense of being more aggressive in restoring some of the \$3 billion in budget cuts over the past three years.

State Senator Therese Murray, chairwoman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, warned that the Supreme Judicial Court may order the state to increase spending on schools by \$1 billion or more as a result of a lawsuit filed by students in poor districts.

"To say, 'Let's spend this money and give tax cuts,' when just about every single city and town is hurt-

ing, I don't think is a smart thing to do right now," said Murray, Democrat of Plymouth. "We could be anywhere from \$1.5 billion to \$3 billion in the hole because of that court case. Why would you get yourself in a deeper hole and hot water now, when that's looming in front of us?"

Lowering the income tax rate to 5 percent would cost the state between \$200 million and \$225 million in fiscal 2005. But it would reduce revenue by twice that amount in fiscal 2006, when it would be in effect for the entire year. Tax increases must take effect at the beginning of the calendar year on Jan. 1, while the fiscal year begins July 1.

Romney's optimism is based largely on a substantial spike in the amount of money Massachusetts collected last month from income withholding, which makes up most of the state's revenue and is considered a key barometer of overall economic health because it is tied so closely to job creation. The state took in \$599 million in income withholding last month, up \$84 million, or 16.3 percent, from April 2003. Overall, it received \$1.8 billion in revenue, up \$410 million, or 29 percent, compared with last April.

# Recent Studies Cast Doubt on Myths About Mysterious, Seldom-Seen Squid World's Largest Invertebrate May Not Reach 3,000 Feet After All

By Henry Fountain  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

With a length up to 75 feet, the giant squid, *Architeuthis*, is the largest invertebrate on earth. But it is also the most elusive. It has never been seen alive in its natural habitat.

As such, *Architeuthis* (pronounced ark-uh-TOOTH-us) has something of a mythical reputation. There has been speculation that the creatures live for decades, even a century, at depths of several thousand feet.

"No one really knows," said Dr. Neil H. Landman of the American Museum of Natural History. "In the ocean there are still mysteries, and this is one of them."

But research by Landman and colleagues from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and other institutions may help dispel some of the myths. *Architeuthis*, they say, may not be so long in the

tooth, and reports of its depth may be greatly exaggerated.

The researchers studied one of the squid's smallest features, a bonelike particle called a statolith that is not much larger than a grain of sand. Statoliths, which are found in the squid's head and help it maintain equilibrium, grow through the buildup of calcium carbonate in discrete rings.

Landman analyzed isotopes of oxygen in statoliths from three southern giant squid, *Architeuthis sanctipauli*, from the Pacific Ocean. Like all specimens, these were caught in fishing nets or washed ashore. The proportion of isotopes gives an indication of the water temperature the squid lived in, and temperature can be related to depth.

In the analysis, reported in the journal *Marine Biology*, Landman found that the squid lived at depths of 600 to 1,000 feet. While he noted

that those figures are not definitive, they are a far cry from 2,000 to 3,000 feet, as some scientists have thought.

The statoliths were also analyzed for carbon-14, a legacy of atmospheric weapons tests. Carbon-14 in the Pacific increased from the 1950s to about 1980, then began a well-documented decline. By analyzing carbon-14 ratios, the researchers were able to calculate an age for the squid: 14 years or less.

Normal squid reach full size in a matter of months ("They're the broiler chickens of the sea," Landman said), so some scientists had thought that giant squid might grow as fast.

Landman said he thought the giants add heft relatively rapidly, though not at the pace of their cousins. After all, he said, "It's hard to imagine something growing that big so quickly."

## Former Deal-Maker Is Found Guilty of Obstruction

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

NEW YORK

Frank P. Quattrone, the investment banker whose deal-making helped fuel the 1990s technology boom, was found guilty Monday of trying to impede government investigations into how hot stock offerings were doled out to investors, making him the most prominent Wall Street figure to face prison since Michael R. Milken.

The verdict came in a retrial of Quattrone after his first trial ended in a hung jury last fall. This time, however, the jurors quickly concluded that Quattrone had tried to hamper criminal and regulatory investigations when he endorsed a colleague's e-mail message in December 2000 urging his staff of bankers at Credit Suisse First Boston to "clean up those files."

Quattrone, who visibly gulped as the judge read the verdict aloud, was perhaps the most prominent investment banker in Silicon Valley during the 1990s. He lead the initial stock offerings of technology giants like Cisco Systems and Amazon.com that often soared to unheard-of heights in their first days of trading. With that success, Quattrone and First Boston came under the microscope of regulators and prosecutors, who began investigating whether the bank was making investors pay kickbacks in exchange for access to hot stock offerings, though such a case was never brought.

The verdict, together with the unorthodox egalitarian public offering announced last week by the Internet search giant Google, may represent the beginning of an enormous sea-change in the way Wall Street does business as it seeks to distance its business from some of the more controversial practices of the 1990s.

The verdict is also vindication for federal prosecutors in Manhattan, who failed to win the same case against Quattrone last fall. The U.S. attorney's office had been widely criticized for bringing an obstruction case instead of a case based on the underlying crimes that they were initially investigating.

## Secret Warrant Requests Increased in 2003

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

WASHINGTON

The government's use of secret warrants to monitor and eavesdrop on suspects in terrorism and intelligence investigations continued to climb sharply in 2003, with more than 1,700 warrants sought, the Justice Department reported Sunday.

Federal authorities made a total of 1,727 applications last year before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the secret panel that oversees the country's most delicate terrorism and espionage investigations, according to the new data.

The total represents an increase of about 500 warrant applications over 2002 and a doubling of the applications since 2001, the Justice Department said in its report, which was submitted to the federal courts and to Vice President Dick Cheney as required by law.

All but three of the applications for electronic surveillance and physical searches of suspects were approved in whole or part by the court. The Justice Department said it did not appeal any of the rejections, but it noted that in two of those cases, warrants were ultimately approved after changes were made in the applications. No details were provided about the investigations.

Civil liberties advocates maintain that the sharp rise in the government's use of the secret warrants, made easier by the antiterrorism law known as the USA PATRIOT Act, represents a worrisome trend because the authorities are held to a lower standard of proof in spying on suspects than they would be in seeking traditional criminal warrants.

## States' Tax Receipts Rise, Leading To Some Surpluses

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

WASHINGTON

States across the country are reporting stronger tax collections this spring for the first time in three years, fueling hopes that the bleakest budget-cutting days of the economic downturn are over, state officials and fiscal experts said.

From Florida to Oklahoma to Oregon, tax revenues are up in recent months from the same period last year, the first consistent increases many states have experienced since Wall Street's bubble burst in 2001.

"Our economy has bottomed out and is improving slightly," said Ken Rocco, a fiscal officer for the Oregon Legislature, echoing the comments of many state budget officials.

Stronger-than-anticipated tax revenues combined with tight spending practices over the past few years are allowing 32 states to finish their 2004 fiscal years with surpluses, according to a survey by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

But most of those surpluses are small and a dark cloud remains: Tax revenues are not growing fast enough to offset the rapidly rising costs of Medicaid, pensions and education, which account for most of state spending.

As a result, 33 states faced projected revenue shortfalls in their 2005 budgets, and about 20 are still struggling to close them, the survey, released last week by the conference, said. Most states' fiscal years begin on July 1 or Oct. 1.

According to the survey, 30 states reported in March that personal income tax collections were at or above projections. In 36 states, sales taxes are coming in at levels as good as or better than forecast. And corporate income taxes are coming in on or above target in 37 states.

California has the worst budget problem by far, projecting a \$15 billion gap in its 2005 budget. But for most states, the estimated shortfalls are significantly smaller than the yawning gaps they had to close in recent years, experts said.

"Yes, revenues are improving, but for almost all states, it is not enough," said Robert Kurtter, senior vice president for state ratings at Moody's Investors Service. "Fiscal '05 is continuing to be a difficult budget year."



# OPINION



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## Anna's Taqueria in the Student Center

Few tasks could be simpler than selling food to college students. We're young, we like to eat, and we're a relatively captive, if picky, audience. The vicissitudes of Student Center food vending make it seem far harder than necessary.

### Editorial

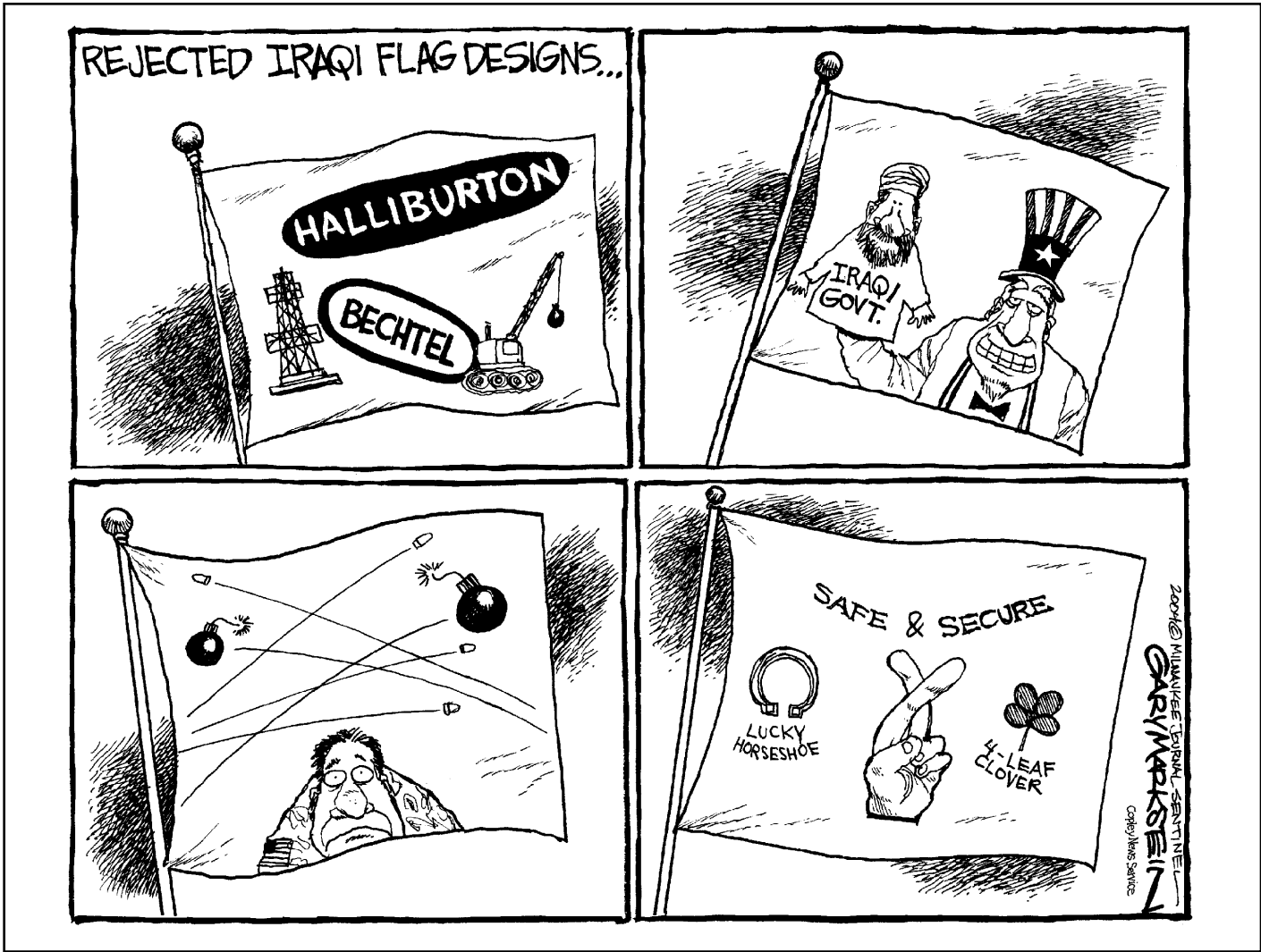
With the closure of Arrow Street Crepes no more than two years after its opening, vendors may be nervous about taking its place come next fall. Indeed, the student center has been a bit of a graveyard for private businesses. Toscanini's, the Coffeehouse, and others have been the casualty of high rents and restrictive agreements with MIT that made their business unsustainable. Businesses offering more general options, like LaVerde's and Alpine Bagel, as opposed to novelty items like crepes and ice cream, have met with success. However, it is pleasant to have dining options available that are an alternative to the predictable staples. One vendor that could offer a relatively exotic counterpoint to other campus dining options while still serving a wide audience is Anna's Taqueria.

Arrow Street never made a profit since day one, and Director of Campus Dining Richard D. Berlin III mentioned that the company had less business than they expected. Even after changing hours and adding a breakfast menu, the business could still not get out of the red, but the thing Arrow Street failed to change was its prices. Its crepes, not the most hearty of entrees, are also quite expensive, and price-sensitive students ultimately haven't bought them.

Anna's Taqueria, a savior for famished people with only a buck or two in their pocket, serves large portions of good food quickly and efficiently at low prices. It has become a very successful local chain, and we'd expect it to find similar success in our budget conscious community.

However, even given Anna's inexpensive and hearty food, MIT can still make the space unsurvivable. MIT took a good step forward by ending the Aramark monopoly on food in the Student Center, but it has yet to embrace full competition between the vendors. Accustomed to managing monopolies, MIT still maintains restrictively high rents, exclusive vending agreements and price controls. When full competition is in place, MIT does not need to guarantee prices because poor service and high prices are unsustainable. Those vendors least under administrative control — the food trucks — are also some of the most successful in providing cheap, reasonable meals.

Students should have another place to eat that doesn't charge unsustainable prices, and MIT administrators can play an important part in letting that happen. Anna's Taqueria can provide a distinctive style of food in exactly the efficient and popular form required to attract hungry but still picky college students. Students can do their part by endorsing Anna's through MIT Dining's online survey at <http://web.mit.edu/dining/feed-back/surveys.html>. We'd like to see this popular Boston restaurant hit our campus next fall.



## Letters To The Editor

### Increasing Access to Athletic Facilities

The main strength of athletic endeavors at MIT is their accessibility to a large segment of our community, ranging from NCAA athletes to groups of friends playing pickup soccer. We recognize that MIT's Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER) has a difficult job trying to balance the interests of all of these groups when deciding on the allocation of scarce resources such as playing fields.

However, DAPER's policy of renting out MIT's limited athletic resources has very unfortunate consequences for the quality of

student life. This summer, as in past summers, DAPER has rented all or almost all of the available grass fields at MIT to a community softball league. The league has a long tradition at MIT, although teams are not necessarily affiliated with MIT. While the rental benefits DAPER by generating much needed revenue, granting any one group exclusive access to a scarce resource is a poor choice for the general MIT community. The unavailability of grass fields for students to relax and play a casual game of soccer or train for a sport in the offseason is odd given that MIT athletic membership nominally includes access to outdoor fields (see, for example, [http://web.mit.edu/zcenter/gen\\_info/cs\\_membership.html](http://web.mit.edu/zcenter/gen_info/cs_membership.html)).

Another example of the rental policy's clash with student interest is the winter rental of the indoor track to Boston community running. While in principle students are allowed to be on the track, the track is often so crowded by the community group that running a separate workout is difficult or dangerous.

We hope that the MIT administration will assist DAPER in finding a way to accommodate the student population at large while still satisfying their budgetary constraints.

Peter M. Mayer G  
Pius A. Uzamere II '04, UA President  
Jacob Faber '04, UA Vice President

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# “Realities on the Ground”

Ken Nesmith

I find the wall Israel is building in the occupied territories troubling. If the purpose of the wall was purely to hamper terrorism, it could be built on Israeli land. Instead, it is built inside Palestinian territory and completes a land grab. In the face of a thousand social, religious, political, and economic undercurrents that shape this prominent conflict, there are simple conceptual realities that are as undeniable as they are central to the source of conflict. Honest scholars acknowledge and embrace them, be they Israel’s most vigorous defenders or its most virulent detractors.

One such conceptual reality is the right to own property. Theft is generally not recognized as a valid means of interaction between individuals. It is also understood to be a criminal act for a greater period of time than those moments when the transgression is actually occurring. We don’t say, “A theft occurred, but it’s in the past! So it’s okay.” We say, “A theft occurred. The previous state of property apportionment should be restored.” This is an important part of civilized and reasonable existence, and the rule of law. Things that people own cannot be taken from them by force; instead, a property owner can trade his property for something else he or she values, if he or she freely chooses to do so.

The wall confounds such a simple notion. It will pen the Palestinians into an ever shrinking enclave, separating nearly half a million Palestinian farmers from their fertile farmland and freshwater wells. About 8,000 acres will be confiscated for wall construction, and nearly 26,000 acres will lie between the wall and the pre-1967 borders. Though just 25 percent of Palestinian land will be taken, that land comprises nearly 80 percent of available farmland and 65 percent of water resources, according to Israeli non-governmental organi-

zation Gush Shalom. In urban areas, the wall acts as a prison barrier, constricting future development by trapping 1.56 million Palestinians inside an area approximately 1,000 acres in size. The wall will enclose three sides of several cities, slowly strangling them.

The Israeli withdrawal from Gaza that forms the other half of this plan has been sold as the redeeming factor here. About 7,500 settlers live in Gaza, controlling 30 percent of the land there (over a million Palestinians live in the rest of the small strip of land). If the measure wins political support (and it looks like it may not), those settlers will be withdrawn. One hand giveth a very little bit, the other hand taketh away a lot.

The destruction and expropriation of lands that the wall entails is no secret. Denounced internationally, the wall once earned our scorn and the threat of reduced billions in aid, until President Bush changed his mind. Now, he speaks of the wall as if it were the Palestinians’ fault. His language is remarkable. At a press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announcing support for the wall, he all but blamed Palestinians for it. “The Palestinian people must insist on change,” he declared. (I bet one change they’d like to insist on is that

they not have their land taken to build a wall). “We will help, but the most difficult work is theirs,” Bush said. One might say their work just got a lot more difficult. Bush wasn’t done though; he commended Sharon for his “bold and courageous decision,” and then —

this takes the cake — called on Palestinians to “match that boldness and courage.”

Let’s review. Israel decides to build a fence taking land that isn’t theirs. Control of this land has been, to make an understatement, a source of sharp disagreement. This decision is to be lauded as bold and courageous. What can Palestinians learn; how could they also be bold and courageous? I suppose they’d have to claim a bunch of land that isn’t theirs, evict the residents and ille-

gally settle it, and get the U.S. to fund them while doing so.

Bush speaks as if Palestinians need to get with the program and catch up with what he calls the “realities on the ground” — basically, to acknowledge Israeli control of the lands taken. But the “realities on the ground” are not the immutable, inescapable facts that such a term implies. Those realities have been created very recently. Several hundred thousand settlers live in West Bank settlements. Between 1994 and 2000, while settlement expansion was ostensibly frozen during the Oslo peace process, the population of the settlements doubled under the cover of natural expansion. Israeli population centers extend ever further into the West Bank, connected by webs of bypass roads and defense outposts. These are the “realities on the ground” to which the Palestinians must adjust. I’m tempted to try this policy in my house. I’ll go to my roommate’s desk, take some of his things — maybe his iPod, a nice digital camera, and a pen — and set them on my desk. Then after a few hours, when he notices, I’ll impatiently ask him to please accept the new “realities on the ground,” and maybe give him back the pen. I could use his — I mean, my camera to get a good picture of him when I tell him that he just needs the boldness and courage to make things better.

To honestly defend Israel’s actions, one has to be comfortable with replacing reason with coercion. Honest defenders of Israel’s actions openly profess as much; Benny Morris is one such defender. An authoritative, well-respected historian disowned by the right and left alike for his unwillingness to spin history to either side’s liking, Morris’s words are candid. While he doesn’t advocate ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians at the present (calling it not only morally wrong but “politically impractical”), he does believe that it wasn’t done thoroughly enough in the past. In an April 17 *New York Times* article, Morris indicates that having decided on transfer, Israel’s leaders should have resolved to “do it properly” in 1948. All of the land should have been taken, not just some of it. He’s aware that his words are blunt: “I’m not saying it’s nice; I’m not saying it’s pleasant,” he adds. The lesson, that ethnic cleansing can

solve our problems if done completely, is an interesting one.

Leading American advocates for Israel fit in the same camp. Former Reagan and Bush administration officials David Frum and Richard Perle, in their recent book “An End to Evil: How to Win the War on Terror,” deem force legitimate as a means of acquiring property. They cite historic instances of expropriation, and note that although these movements of borders “are seldom agreeable to everyone,” what needs to happen here is another historic instance of expropriation. “The greatest — indeed, the sole obstacle to peace is the feeling among many people in the Arab and Muslim world that anything that was once theirs can never legitimately be anybody else’s,” they write. The Palestinians display a lack of a “willingness to swallow disappointment” and accept their fate.

Their judgment prescribes an unfavorable course of action for the Palestinians. The key variable in their examples is time. They’d like lands taken quite recently, in the last ten years, to now be legitimately accepted as Israel’s. “It’s been long enough; it’s ours now,” they say in effect, as Palestinians on the other side of the wall wonder what to do since their farmlands and homes were taken away yesterday, last week, last year. Under these guidelines, the proper Palestinian response would be to muster as much violence as possible to retake the settled lands. Then, they could wait a few years, ask the world to accept the new “realities on the ground,” and insist that any unhappy parties “swallow their disappointment.”

There are worse sins in the world than the building of this wall, and there are worse problems with the Middle East. Irrationality and anti-Semitism still abound, and the Arab world is still mired in too many self-destructive practices. But honesty demands that those who defend this as the right way forward understand and take intellectual responsibility for their action, as do scholars like Morris, Perle, and Frum. This is not an act of peace; it is a promotion of violence, coercion, and expropriation. As such, it legitimates those as the tools for interactions between individuals and nations. Perhaps might does make right after all. To my roommate — watch your iPod.

*To honestly defend Israel’s actions, one has to be comfortable with replacing reason with coercion. Honest defenders of Israel’s actions openly profess as much.*

# Altering Public Conceptions of Female Candidates

Chen Zhao

Being a woman in politics is always an issue. Reporters have to muse over it, pundits have to ponder the implications, and voters are left with a lot of doubt in their minds, not because there is actually something wrong with the woman, but simply because she is a woman.

As soon as a woman announces her intention to run for public office, two questions immediately pop up: is she capable of performing the duties demanded by the office and will she, as a woman, command the necessary respect from her peers and international leaders? To be fair, the first question applies to men as well. Anyone of either gender will, or should, have their abilities scrutinized.

The second question though, is fairly unique to women. In much of the world, still, women are not regarded to be the intellectual equals of men. Much thinking revolves around the assumption that women are frail and cannot grasp the intricacies of many real world problems. As a result, women are granted fewer rights and have come to be forced to live under stringent rules designed by men. With a good portion of the world thinking this way, a woman running for a national office naturally makes people worry about how much respect, and thus power, she will command when facing leaders of other countries. Even in her own office in this

country, which we would like to believe is far more progressive on the issue of gender equality, the woman will always be viewed by her peers in such a way that her gender is almost certainly foremost in their minds, whether consciously or unconsciously. A man in the same position would be viewed as just another politician, but a woman would be viewed as “another politician, but one who is a female.”

A woman in a high power political position, unlike a man, has to worry about whether she was actually intended to be there. Women who serve as advisors, consultants, and members of the cabinet always have to wonder whether they are the token female. In 1992, when President George H.W. Bush announced his reelection team, a group photo of the core team was released. The photo was all-male with one lone female standing front and center. That woman was Mary Matalin, the deputy campaign manager for political operations. While that is an important job, the occupier of the said position is usually not included in the photograph. So, why was Mary Matalin placed front and center? Take a wild guess. A president or a candidate running for president would be absolutely crazy or suicidal to have an all-male cabinet or team of advisors. Thus, the Condoleezza Rices or Elaine Chaos of the world have to worry about something that never even crosses the minds of the Donald Rumsfelds and John Snows.

With all the speculation surrounding

Hillary Rodham Clinton — Will she run for president? Will Kerry pick her as a running mate? — the question of whether we, as a country, are ready for a female president or vice president begs to be asked.

First, the general consensus seems to be that Hillary Clinton will run for president in 2008 if Kerry is not elected. In four short years, how will this country react to a woman running for the highest office of the land? Sadly, the conversation will almost certainly be dominated by the issue of her gender. It would certainly be nice to think that we would be able to look beyond that and have a serious discussion of the real issues. There will be those who would not vote for her because she is a woman and equally unfortunately, there will be those who do vote for her, but only because she would be the first female president.

The same pertains to if Kerry picks Clinton to be his running mate. Before anyone brings this up, yes, I know that for numerous reasons which I will not discuss here, the actual chance of Kerry doing such a thing is very slim and that the chance of Clinton accepting such an offer is even slimmer. But let’s pretend that there are no peripheral issues about Clinton wanting to run for president herself and that she has as good a chance as

Edwards or Gephardt or anyone else of being on the ticket. So what would happen? The attention would be even greater than when Al Gore picked Jewish politician Joseph Lieberman as his running mate.

In 1984, Walter Mondale picked Geraldine Ferraro, a Congresswoman from New York, as his running mate. Losing in a landslide to Ronald Reagan, Mondale and Ferraro won only the state of Minnesota and the District of Columbia.

Granted, Mondale never had

that great of a chance of winning the election in the first place, but it would still not be ridiculous to argue to that the fact that Ferraro was a woman had something to do with his loss.

The only way to change the public unease with a woman running for president or vice president is to have more women running for those positions. As of now, it remains a novelty. No woman has seriously been considered for president and Geraldine Ferraro has been the only serious vice presidential candidate. If we have enough precedent though, people will view such an occurrence as only natural, just as how when John Kerry became the presumed Democratic nominee, nobody gasped that he was in fact a man.

*The question of whether we, as a country, are ready for a female president or vice president begs to be asked.*

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# ARTS

CONCERT / DANCE REVIEW

## Costumed Lions Dancing to Distinctive Drummers

### Kresge Audience Experiences a Lively Senegalese Tradition

By Fred Choi  
STAFF WRITER  
*Simb: A Senegalese Fake Lion Spectacle*  
Rambax MIT  
and MIT Dance Theater Ensemble  
Kresge Auditorium  
April 25, 2 p.m.

In a well-coordinated effort, Rambax MIT and the MIT Dance Theater Ensemble presented a simb, a Senegalese tradition, last Sunday afternoon in Kresge Auditorium. These two MIT arts ensembles provided a memorable hour and a half of music, dance, and storytelling, with the aid of several guest artists and sponsorship from the Music & Theater Arts Section, Office of the Arts Special Programs, and the DeFlorez Fund for Humor.

According to the program notes, a simb is “a traditional Senegalese fake lion spectacle, or Senegalese lion dance,” and Rambax MIT, directed by Professor Patricia Tang, ably provided the musical accompaniment. Rambax MIT (pronounced “rahm-bach”) is an MIT club focused on learning sabar, the traditional drumming and dancing of the Wolof people of Senegal.

Like other indigenous forms of drumming, the Wolof drumming ensemble is divided into several subgroups on various instruments that combine rhythmic patterns into more complex textures. At this performance, Artist-in-Residence Lamine Touré, as the lead drummer, directed Rambax’s drumming, which, while a bit louder than desired, was intense and hypnotic.

Much attention was devoted to Touré himself, who was an immediately magnetic and mercurial presence. His larger-than-life per-

sonas alternated between a master of ceremonies, a hell-fire-and-brimstone Methodist preacher, and a talk show host, with a few flashy dance moves thrown in for good measure.

The MIT Dance Theater Ensemble, directed by Professor Thomas F. DeFrantz, provided the majority of the dancing. The cast included a main lion (guest artist Pape Ndiaye), two smaller lions (each with colorful face and body paint and costumes representing lion skins) and three colorfully garbed women as “the lions’ wives.”

The story of the simb, which is generally about “‘taming’ the lion’s spirit through music,” was at times a bit difficult to follow, though perhaps it would have been less so with more comprehensive program notes. Although the other dancers didn’t quite match the effortless grace of the lithe James A. Tolbert ’05 and the playful Ndiaye, all the dancers were a pleasure to watch as they executed jumps and leaps; wild, oftentimes circular arm movements; repeated hand and foot movements; and the occasional bit of pantomime.

Much of the humor of the performance derived from the audience’s participation. As is traditional, the lions and their wives made audience members dance with them onstage. Audience participation tends to be predictable



PATRICIA TANG

James A. Tolbert (left) acts out the role of a lion as guest artist Lamine Touré performs as lead drummer in *Simb*, a Senegalese Fake Lion Spectacle, produced by Rambax MIT and MIT Dance Theater Ensemble.

in every art form, but Touré’s mock-threatening cues to clap rhythms with him or repeat phrases back to him were ultimately winning. The energy levels of the performers were high all-around and the audience’s response enthu-

siastic. Clearly this was a successful collaboration and a chance for the MIT community to experience a lively Senegalese tradition.

Rambax MIT’s Spring Concert is this Saturday on the Student Center steps.

A CAPPELLA REVIEW

## The Muses Find Their Tune

### ‘Real World’ Theme Works in Singing and Skits

By Zachary Ozer  
*MIT Muses*  
Wong Auditorium  
May 1, 8 p.m.

When I think of MTV’s “The Real World,” what generally comes to mind is a group of strangers thrust together with the hopes that their differences will incite conflict. The Muses concert on Saturday night, of the same namesake, was a demonstration of quite the opposite.

Indeed, those watching in the nearly packed Wong Auditorium saw unparalleled displays of camaraderie and teamwork, rather than the manifestation of antagonism for

which the MTV show is renowned. Rather than appearing when expected, the Muses, like all great inspiration at their own discretion.

The evening began with “On the Real World,” a reworked version of The Carpenter’s “Johnny Angel.” Although the new lyrics focused mainly on the interpersonal relationships of the group members, it was well received by the audience. The melody complemented the group’s natural harmony perfectly, and soloist Anastasia M. Rodriguez ’04 carried a pitch perfect tune seemingly without effort. Even at this early hour, it became readily apparent that the Muses would have to battle technical difficulties and mediocre acoustics characteristic of Wong Auditorium.

The introductory arrangement seemed to reflect the pieces which the group members personally wanted to hear, rather than a specific genre or field of emotion. A sketch comedy piece meant to resemble a piece from “Real World” transitioned appropriately into Pink’s “Feel Good Time.” With its techno interludes and diva-like moments from Pink, it was definitely the most ambitious piece attempted throughout the evening. The group’s choreography captured the song brilliantly.

And then, seemingly directly from the roof-deck of Apple Studios, came The Beatles’ “Don’t Let Me Down.” With a bit slower tempo than the original, the piece achieved new depths of meaning. Jennifer N. Fische ’07 stole the spotlight as a soft spoken, but heart-

felt John. The rest of the Muses easily stepped in for Paul, Ringo, and George.

The rest of the evening reflected thought in terms of the song arrangement, although the sketch comedy most definitely suffered. The spectacular vocal displays were followed by sketch comedy which made me wonder if perhaps the Muses themselves were relying on inspiration. A spoof on MTV News, Charlene Shih ’07 and Caroline S. Reilly ’06 tried to reenact the incident at the Superbowl involving Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake. The piece evidently was not well-rehearsed and came off as superfluous boobage.

The great exception to this was another “Real World” skit by Rodriguez and Weifang Sun ’04 which came to resemble the infamous scene from Katz’s Deli in “When Harry Met Sally.” The skit dealt with the nightly ritual of group member S. Alki Delichatsios ’05, and then led into Blondie’s “I Touch Myself.” Much like Meg Ryan in the film, Alki apparently enjoyed performing a little bit too much, because she continued even after her fellow Muses were quite done.

Other highlights from the evening included an inspired performance by Sheena C. Hembrador ’06 of Wham!’s “Wake Me Up Before You Go.” While the lyrics and melody were that of the original recording, Sheena and the Muses imparted a new soul into the song.

Unsurpassed was the performance of “Muses Never Get Over You” Natasha N. Rushing ’05. Her voice was reminiscent of Lauryn Hill, completely at ease and yet resonating throughout the room. She seemed so natural and so at ease one had to wonder whether she had been born in front of a microphone.

Later, Hembrador and Rushing performed a duet together of “You Thought Wrong” by Kelly Clarkson and Tamara. The duo’s astonishing voices blew the crowd away. As the song progressed, the duet became even more intense as they drew on other’s energy to provide one of the most spectacular moments of the evening.

What really made the concert amazing were not the impressive vocals which one could find at any a cappella concert, but rather the great bond the Muses share with each other. The Muses carried out their tradition of singing “How High the Moon” with their alumni, but the evening’s crowning moment was the tribute to their seniors. While the young group may not have quite perfected their ability to carry a theme throughout an evening, the friendship of the Muses will carry them until they find their tune.



BEN GALLUP—THE TECH

Frances W. Weld ’05 (front left) and S. Alki Delichatsios ’05 (front right) lead the Muses’ rendition of “Sweetness”, by Jimmy Eat World, last Saturday evening during their concert in Wong Auditorium.

A CAPPELLA REVIEW

# The Toons: How to Conquer an Audience

## When the Men Fail, the Women Still Do the Job

By Devdoot Majumdar  
*CONTRIBUTING EDITOR*

The MIT/Wellesley Toons  
10-250  
May 1, 8 p.m.

The musical repertoire of your average a cappella group has been, in short, sampled to oblivion. The Stevie covers, the Britney covers, the bubble-gum 80's covers — it's all fun and games for the Class of 2007, but for people like me, it ranks up there with other lame MIT traditions (i.e., "In Stereo").

Fittingly enough, the MIT/Wellesley Toons provide a delicious counterpoint to your standard a cappella group. Their concerts don't have the feel of "bathtime with Tori Amos" nor do they have the tawdry overtones of a Top 40 showdown.

The Toons do well by performing songs that captivate the audience — some of them are hits, some of them are woefully unknown. But as refreshing as their song selection might be, what makes the Toons MIT's premiere a cappella group are some of their stunning arrangements and some of their equally stunning voices.

Spring concerts are known to be the last hurrah for some of these stunning voices, as they are essentially farewell

concerts for seniors. With 2004, the Toons see the departure of, among others, MIT vocalists Nikhila Deo '04, and Neelima Teerdhala '04; and Wellesley vocalists Claire Gross, Heather Macdonald, and Kieran Pechter.

The evening, though generally enjoyable, certainly demonstrated a marked discrepancy among the Toons' singers. It's fair to say that the women of the Toons heartily outsing the men. Thankfully, the coarser, off-pitch vocals delivered by some of these guys were more forgettable than memorably bad. In light of some of the more mesmerizing moments of the evening (read: the female solos) and some amusing skits, The Toons managed to end the evening without losing their belt as reigning a cappella champions.

We'll start with the forgettable. Ryan Manuel '04 brought to 10-250 one of the more unknown songs from "The Lion King," Scar's "Be Prepared." He brought what little life could be brought to the song, and in so doing, replaced any campiness for pure, unbridled cheesiness. For all of the red lighting in the world, nothing could salvage the minutes of vocal blandness and choreographed "excitement." This is not to say that I don't enjoy the cartoon themes of the The Toons, only that, if they were going to go

Lion King this concert, at least do "Circle of Life."

Other male vocal misdirections include the droning of Patrick Y. Kim '04 in "Roll to Me," and the mumbling of Lee-Kai M. Wang '07 in "Hackensack," a Fountains of Wayne song.

All in all, it is tough to apply any metric to MIT performances. You can't judge them with the "American Idol" scale because if they were that good, they wouldn't be here. So, I've kind of settled on a scale of my own. Sometimes, I like to sit in the the Student Center on Friday nights. If you sit in the middle of the fourth floor, you can hear all three competing Christian groups singing, tambourines and all. Quite frankly, they aren't half bad.

One Toon male-led song, "72 Hour Daze" by Taxiride and led by Manuel, made it past the gospel cutoff. With an elaborately layered arrangement and solid vocals from the entire group, the song served as a stepping-stone toward the better half of the evening: female solos.

Deo delivered her cherished solo, "I'm Not an Addict" by Kay's Choice. The Toons pushed it along as the song culminated in only a slightly laborious process. Deo's emphatic refrains and powerful delivery of the song's bridge earned both singer and group high praise from the

audience. Most notably, her occasional outbursts of sass countered her sometimes childlike vocals and gave a bit of veracity to the phrase, "I'm not an addict."

Wellesley senior Kieran Pechter bid the group farewell with two songs: Michelle Branch's "Everywhere to Me" and 'Til Tuesday's "Voices Carry." Her voice, unremarkable in its strength perhaps, stands out by virtue of its uncanny likeness to some New York City Village folk singer. Though "Everywhere to Me" was rushed and drained of some of its sincerity, "Voices Carry" rang of Aimee Mann, the song's original singer. Sweet and wide-ranging, Pechter's voice is truly a refreshing element for any a cappella group.

Teerdhala also delivered an exquisite — if a bit Broadway-esque — performance of Dido's "All You Want." But at a time when too many a cappella groups take the Brian Adams approach to singing, and with a group called The Toons, a little Broadway doesn't hurt, even when it's Dido they're covering.

Teerdhala's showstopping performance was only outdone only by Wellesley sophomore Ji Lim's outstanding "Waiting Under the Waves," by Kris Delmhorst. Sporting an enchantingly silky voice, Lim's vocals are as beguilingly commanding as they are emotionally ripe. The song captured The Toons at their best, spot-

CONCERT REVIEW

# 'Til I Get Over Michelle Branch

## Wellesley Audience Not Left Empty-Handed

By Petar Simich  
*STAFF WRITER*

Michelle Branch, Rooney, Joe Firstman  
Keohane Sports Center, Wellesley College  
April 25, 8 p.m.

The Virgin College Mega Tour, headlined by Michelle Branch, landed at the Keohane Sports Center in Wellesley College on Sunday night. The sports center, a huge space with terrible acoustics, was an odd place to hold the performance, as the crowd could never fill it and the sound echoed and reverberated the daylights out of everyone. If the tour came to MIT, La Sala would have been more than enough.

It was announced that the performance was dedicated to Katie Palmer, the Wellesley student that died this past week. A moment of silence was held, and then the show began.

Joe Firstman was the first man up (pun intended). Singer-songwriters seem to be the thing these days, and Firstman was no exception. He jumped between playing the piano and acoustic guitar on his upbeat and laid back blend of pop and rock, which would fit in well on the airwaves. On one piano solo, it

seemed as if it was going to be another one of those emotional, sappy love confessions, but Firstman took an unexpected turn with the lyrics, throwing in humorous in-law bashing.

He probably made a poor choice for the final song, doing a cover of Paul McCartney's "Maybe I'm Amazed" where he obviously couldn't hit the high notes and resorted to a crazy falsetto. The set wasn't musically ear-opening but was entertaining at least, and Firstman received approval from the screaming girls.

Much more screaming welcomed Rooney. It was somewhat baffling watching them. It was as if they were a band that looked like they were from the 70's, went in a time machine to the 80's to pick up a synthesizer, and then zipped back and forth between decades getting bits and pieces of songs from those eras. If I hadn't cut my hair recently, I probably could have applied to be the tambourine player.

The synthesizer gave a very strong new wave tilt to Rooney's music, and both a hint of the Beatles and a surprising 50's doo-wop style song made their way in. Unfortunately, none of the songs were successful in making the couple next to me stop making out and

enjoy the music instead. Guitarist Taylor Locke's smooth and effortless lead solos were rather fun to watch as he took a skilled command of the instrument.

Finally, the reason I had gone to Wellesley for the second time in my life (damn psets) appeared on stage. Michelle Branch took the stage to much fanfare and, armed with her acoustic guitar, opened the set with the title track off of her latest album Hotel Paper. She apologized to the audience for her singing, telling us that she was recovering from a sinus cold.

Her singing wasn't actually that bad, and although it was noticeable that she didn't hold some of the high and powerful notes as long as she was supposed to, she did a pretty darn good job under the conditions. Most of the beautifully done songs that night were off of Hotel Paper, but she unfortunately didn't play "Breathe," one of the best off of that album. She did play her new single, "'Til I Get Over You," which sadly didn't have the touching French background vocals in the chorus.

It was a much more intimate and quieter affair than listening to one of her albums. Gone were all the studio effects and overdubs, and all that was present were Branch, a guitarist, bassist, drummer and backup singer. The result were songs that were more relaxed, and in two extreme cases, quieter and slower. Branch made everyone do a double-take when she played her two most popular singles off of her first album The Spirit Room, "Everywhere" and "All You Wanted." Instead of the familiar speed and intensity, both songs were



DANIEL R. BERSAK—THE TECH

Pop singer Michelle Branch performs last Sunday night at Wellesley College, following rock band Rooney. The concert was part of the Virgin College Megatour.

slowed down, and "All You Wanted" was even in a lower key, transforming the busy pop songs into powerful ballads.

Other highlights of the performance were a duet between Branch and her backup singer singing a song they had both composed (Branch played the harmonica!), and a cover of Oasis's "Wonderwall," one of the most energetic songs of the night, which, according to Branch, "makes me want to get drunk and cuss at everyone like Oasis does."

The set ended with an epic version of "Empty Handed," the guitarist proving himself to incredibly proficient at his craft. No encore followed due to Branch apologizing that her voice had had it for the night. I walked out of the sports center scintillated by the pop star. I can't wait to see her perform again, and I'm ready to be blown away when I hear her singing with 100 percent of her voice.



DANIEL R. BERSAK—THE TECH

Guitarist Joe Firstman plays Sunday night with Michelle Branch at Wellesley College. The concert was part of the Virgin College MegaTour.

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EVENT REVIEW

# Wrestling Justice Without the Spandex

## Kaiju Big Battel Mixes Technical Wrestling Excellence with Bizarre Humor

By Brian Loux  
*CARTOONIST*

*Kaiju Big Battel*  
*Mayday! Mayday! Boston SOS!*  
*Saturday, May 1, 6 p.m.*  
*Avalon*

Traverse enough of Boston and you'll be sure to find a decal bearing a remarkably square frownie-face with crossbones. Ever wonder what underground movement it might represent? The answer is so bizarre, so outrageous, and so ludicrous, it could take root in no other place than the New England metropolis.

Kaiju Big Battel, which describes itself as a "tongue-in-cheek hybrid of American pro-wrestling, Japanese monster movies, and low-brow pop culture," does indeed resemble the love-child of World Wrestling Entertainment producer Vince McMahon and an anime fanatic. Wrestling's masculine melodrama changes here into a ludicrous story about a battle for control of the universe as men in monster costumes duke it out in a steel cage (now termed the Danger Cage).

Kaiju does indeed take heavily from American professional wrestling organizations, including monster Unibouzu's "murky depths" move, a modified version of Brock Lesnar's "F5" maneuver in which the opponent is placed on one's shoulders, lifted above

ones head, spun around, and dropped. But there are attributes that set Kaiju above a backyard wrestling production mixed with humor, and to some extent, even above traditional professional wrestling.

First is the small venue in which battels are performed. The intimate setting helps rile the crowd more frequently and makes the high-flying maneuvers all the more impressive. Of course, the monsters follow that up with an impressive move repertoire. While the performers tend to be actors by trade, they are still able to pull off the eye-catching moves like tornado DDTs, sunset flips, and fisherman's suplexes. For myself, I was able to watch Dusto Bunny and Neo Teppen perform moonsaults off the top of the Danger Cage all the while being an arm's length away from both.

Then would come the colorful characters and storyline. Traditional wrestling stories tend to be ones of personal feuds. However, Kaiju permanently keeps itself in the World Championship Wrestling vs. New World Order days, with four factions (one good, one evil, two rogues) battling each other and no one ever truly gaining the upper hand. This is infinitely easier to understand and dive into for a fan.

And while the costumes do help exceptionally in developing a character's relationship with the fans, the monsters usually go the

extra mile to show their personalities. The newly debuted Superwrong came out dancing to the internet-famous "Yatta!" song and took a good three minutes to perform before his matchup. Dr. Cube (the chief villain whose visage graces the Kaiju decals) will stomp around and salute his followers after gaining the upper hand. Gomi-man (a living pile of New Jersey garbage) comes out with a barrel of toxic waste and throws handfuls of it into the crowd.

In order to help direct the tempo, musical selections are played throughout each match. Sometimes it is simple as playing a monster's theme song when he comes to interrupt a scheduled match. But usually, the music is able to express how the fight is going. When both monsters are getting slammed into the cardboard building props, you have typical streetfight music. Should the hero have the upper hand, something more triumphant or in the style of his theme song might play. The oppo-



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Neo Teppen delivers a hard side kick — one of his 27 special powers — to perennial loser Call-Me-Kevin. Neo Teppen would go on to win the match for the Heroes. The Kaiju monsters battled for honor and glory in "Boston SOS!" at Avalon last Saturday.



WAN YUSOF WAN MORSHIDI—THE TECH

Evil Dr. Cube delivers a leg drop to Unibouzu during an impromptu title match after the drunken Hell Monkey gave it up. The Kaiju monsters battled for honor and glory in "Boston SOS!" at Avalon last Saturday.

site is of course true for the villain.

The best musical accompaniment tends to come just before a high-risk maneuver is about to be executed. The music starts out soft, slowly building as one of the competitors scales the cage, then climaxes as the monster makes his fall back down to Earth. It's an innovation in wrestling that again helps the crowd get into it.

But one of the most important traits of Kaiju is the ability to never take itself too seriously. While the story does describe the battle for the universe and commentator Loudon Noxious describes the battles with the sincerity and emotion of WWE announcer Jim Ross, there's never any doubt that it's a spectacle.

Two of the matches that night were one-punch knockouts; one because Superwrong was so weak, the other (the championship

match) because Hell Monkey made his way to the ring drunk and barely able to stand. Los Plantanos were able to defeat Marutambo (a giant tree) by taking axes to him.

This ultimately combines for a product that is truly captivating. No more than three hours after being introduced to the world and story of Kaiju had I become a "mark," or a wrestling fan who has forgotten that the entire thing is staged and is cheering as if it were real. I tried to start "Holy Shit!" chants after every flip off the top of the cage and booed when evil Dr. Cube walked away with the championship belt that night.

Wrestling, Godzilla movies, and anime all have their clique audiences. But if you enjoy a modicum of any one of them, be sure to check out Kaiju the next time they're in town.

**Exhibition Opening Reception**  
**Tuesday May 4, 2004**  
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## Jewish Women Scientists Around the World

The reception will honor the three MIT-affiliated women featured in the exhibit.

**Mildred Dresselhaus**  
Institute Professor of Electrical Engineering and Physics, and founder of the MIT Women's Forum

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RSA Professor of Computer Science

**Irene Greif**  
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## UA President, VP Will Not Reimburse Any Hacking Fines

Outgoing Undergraduate Association President and Vice President Pius A. Uzamere II '04 and Jacob W. Faber '04 said that they will not be reimbursing any fines imposed by MIT as a result of involvement in hacks.

### News Briefs

Last Wednesday, Uzamere and Faber sent a letter to the undergraduate student body stating that they would be accepting applications for hack fine reimbursements until 7 p.m. last Friday. In the letter, they said that they would review descriptions of these hacks and refund fines for hacks that they considered “substantive.”

Faber said that he and Uzamere received less than ten applications, but would not provide any more detail. The hacks described in the applications were “good, but not on-par” with some more popular hacks such as the Wright brothers hack and 2001 Douglas Adams hack, in which a large banner was put up in Killian Court honoring the author of *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* series, Faber said.

Faber said that the applicants have been notified that they will not be receiving reimbursements. There were no responses from the hackers to this as of yesterday evening, he said.

“At the time we wrote this, we were thinking, ‘Oh, this is such a great idea,’ but we didn’t really think about what to expect,” Faber said. He said that there are no plans to extend the deadline for hack reimbursements.

—Jenny Zhang

## Grad EECS Association Now Official

The constitution for a new MIT Course VI Graduate Students Association was ratified last Wednesday with approval from over one-third of the 975 registered graduate students in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Barun Singh G, one of the founding members, said that the purpose of the group is to enhance communication between the students and the faculty in the EECS department. The group has “been created with the blessings of the department to work with the faculty and administrators to make the department a better place,” Singh said.

The group now officially exists, said Singh, but official officer elections will not be held until next year. Mehdi Gazor G, Mark A. Finlayson G, Stephen M. Hou G, Stephen M. Kohen G, Ming Y. Tang G, and Kwaku O. Abrokwah G, the founding and active officers, will run the group until elections are held.

The original constitution of the EECS GSA required one-half of the graduate EECS students to approve the constitution. Singh said that the founders changed the requirement to one-third of the graduate EECS students because they were not able to reach half of the student body in a timely manner despite going door-to-door around the EECS laboratories to ask for signatures. Of the 373 students that voted on the constitution, 350 voted in favor and 23 voted against it.

—Kathy Dobson

# UA: Yes to IFC Rush in Killian

SAE, from Page 1

IFC was that the procedures for electing IFC and Panhel representatives does not fairly represent the organizations.

According to the UA Senate Bylaws, a dormitory or living group is allotted one senator per 160 undergraduate residents. However, the IFC is treated as one living group, as is Panhel. This is most notably a problem in the case of Panhel, because only the individuals that live in sorority houses are eligible to vote for the Panhel senator.

“This means that only about 20 percent of the members of Panhel actually get to vote for Panhel senator,” said Panhel Senator Robin M. Davis '05.

The bill attempted to solve this problem by creating a task force that would have come up with a suitable voting scheme this summer.

At the center of the proposal was the fact that affiliated undergraduates living in dormitories would be able to select whether they wished to vote for a dormitory representative or for an IFC/Panhel representative.

However, the bill was received with mixed reaction. Seth E. Dorfman '05, senator from Simmons, spoke out against the bill because solutions like this have been proposed and were determined not to be viable, he said.

Others approved of the bill. It had “great long-term potential,” said Pius A. Uzamere II '04.

The bill was narrowly defeated with a vote of 9 in favor, 9 against, and two abstentions.

Following the bill’s defeat, IFC President Daniel H. Daneshvar read a statement to the UA Senate. The UA senate has “continued the trend of disenfranchising over one-third of the student body,” and the IFC does not feel that it is “getting fair or accurate representation,” he said.



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

Outgoing UA speaker Yun-Ling Wong '04 (left) swears in incoming UA president Harel M. Williams '05 last night.

Davis insisted that the IFC and Panhel were not going to stop their attempt to reform. “We’re going to continue to work on it. We want this to be a representative situation for both Panhel and the IFC,” she said.

### Money allocated, Rush supported

The Senate also loaned \$3,500 to the Muses for the production of their new CD, \$1,500 for an “Orientation Kick-Off After-Party” planned for the Class of 2008, \$1,000 to help support “wellness seminars” designed to educate stu-

dents about MIT Medical’s services, and \$4,692 to purchase tables, chairs, and miscellaneous renovations for the UA office.

The Senate also allocated \$12,000 for DomeView, an iCampus project seeking to put liquid crystal displays (LCDs) in various locations in campus, displaying advertisements for student events.

In addition, the UA passed a resolution to support “the Interfraternity Council in their bid to reserve and use Killian Court” for Rush Kickoff 2004.

## The Sloan Subject Prioritization System Bidding Dates for Fall, 2004 Classes

**http://sloanbid.mit.edu**

**Leave password field blank, create new password under 'Personal Information'**

### Institute-wide bidding for Sloan subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 12

Closes 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 21

### Waitlist-Only Round for closed Sloan subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, July 30

Closes 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 7

Waitlists for closed Sloan classes are part of the Course Bidding System, beginning May 12. Please contact Tara Walor, [twalor@mit.edu](mailto:twalor@mit.edu), if you have any questions regarding Sloan Course Bidding.

***Successful bids appear on your Registration Form on September 7 and will be posted on the bidding website as of July 14 -- write down your password to check results!***



Senior House’s annual steer roast was held last weekend.

(right) The steer roast barbeque pit erupts in flames to the delight of onlookers.

(below) Hani Sallum ’96 towers over steer roast attendees in a costume he designed employing mechanical stilts.

(below right) Senior House graduate resident tutor Andrew G. “Zoz” Brooks G displays the Sport Death shield. The tile was burned in the barbeque pit during the festivities.

*Photography by Grant Jordan*



# Steer Roast



(above) The Sport Death banner adorns the front facade of Senior House during Steer Roast.

(right) Ross Lippert, PhD ’98, wrestles Steve Reinhardt at Senior House’s annual steer roast, held last weekend.





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Bangkok - Viengtai Hotel.....\$16/night

Cape Town - Ashanti Lodge.....\$14/night

Santiago - La Casa Roja.....\$8/night



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# Trio

Check out extra TRIO episodes that missed the Tech: [alum.mit.edu/www/emie](http://alum.mit.edu/www/emie)

by Emezie Okorafor



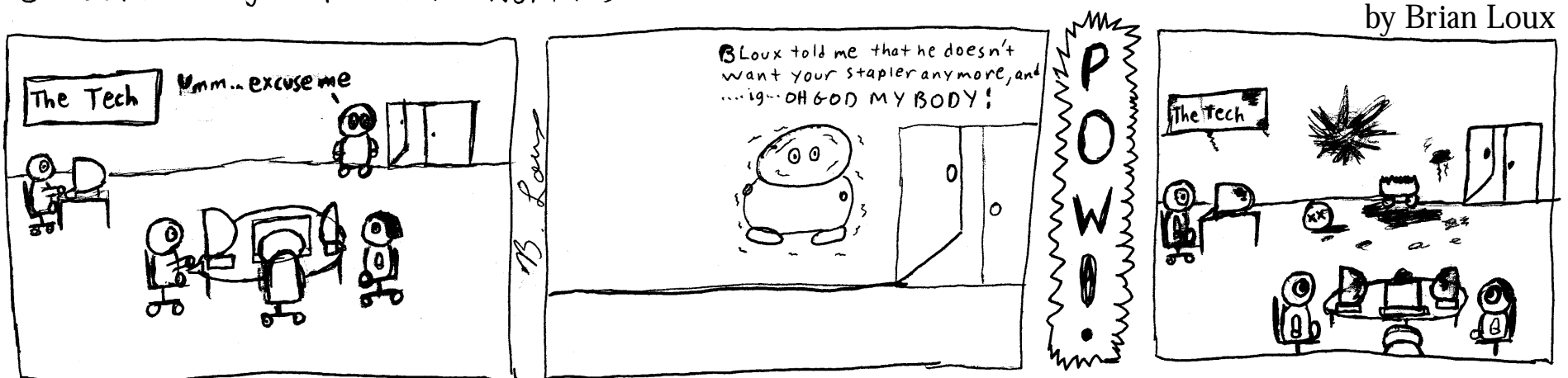
In which I act very liberal then ruin the moment

by Brian Loux



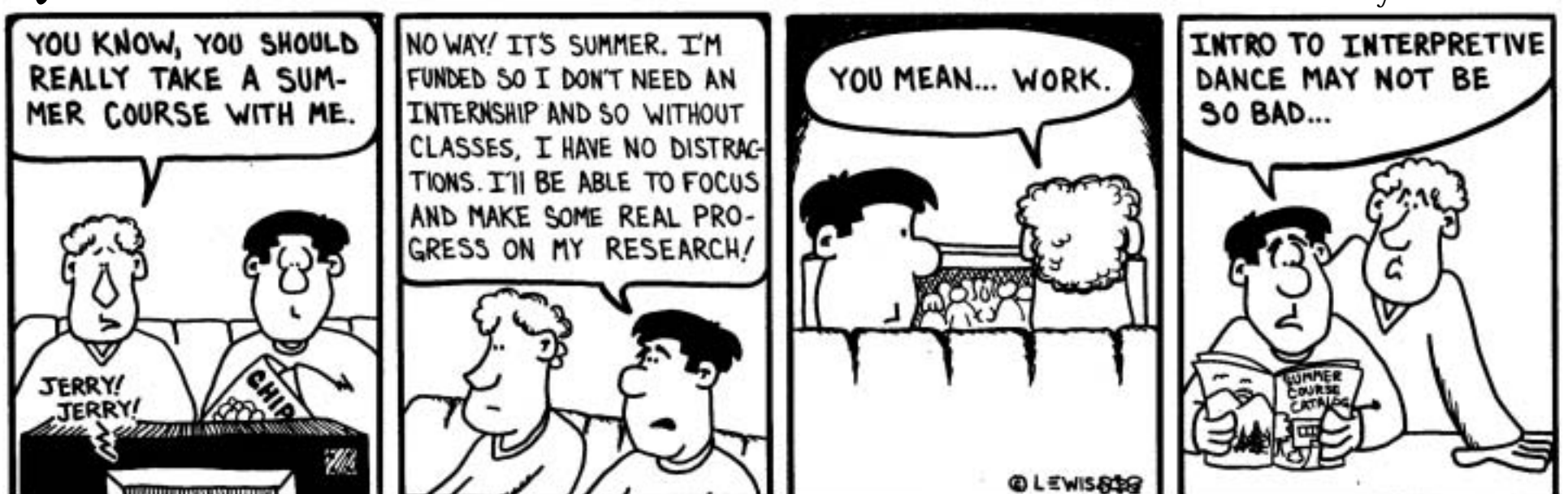
B Loux's new job: Fist of the North Star

by Brian Loux



# QED

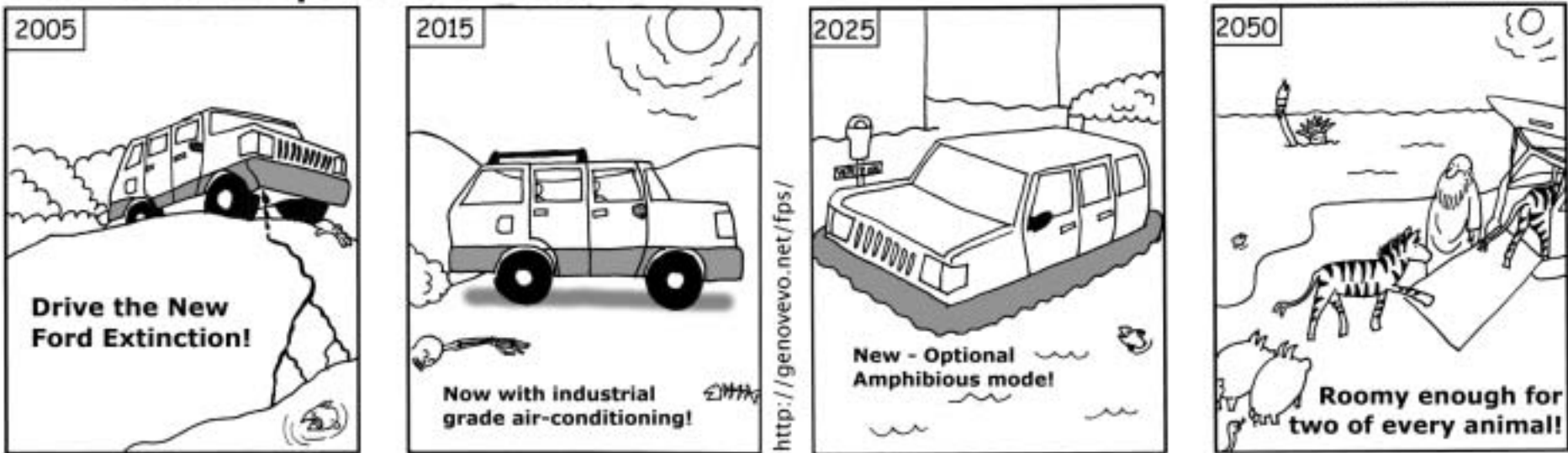
by Brian Lewis





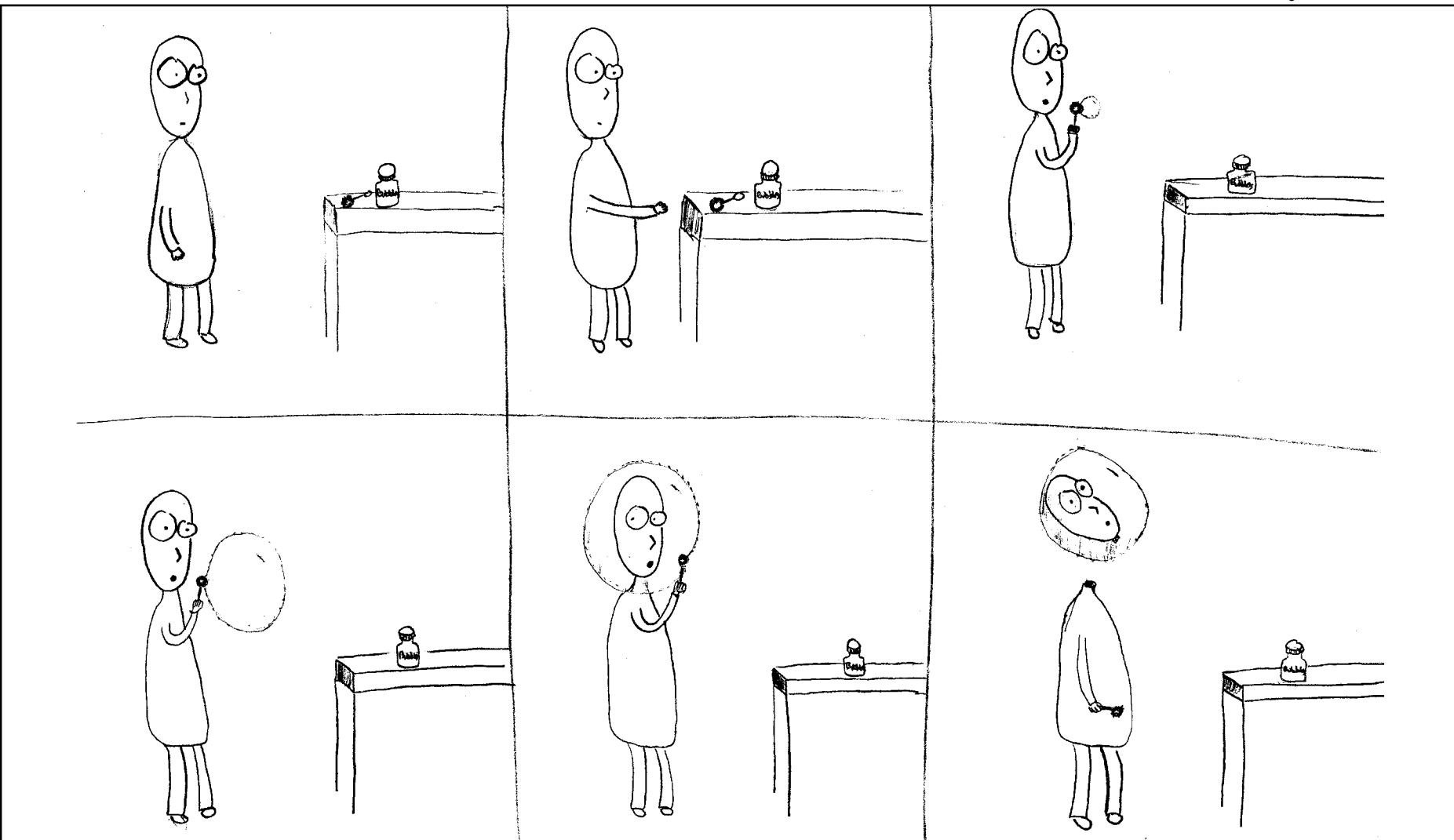
Fascist Popsicle Stand

by Saurabh Asthana



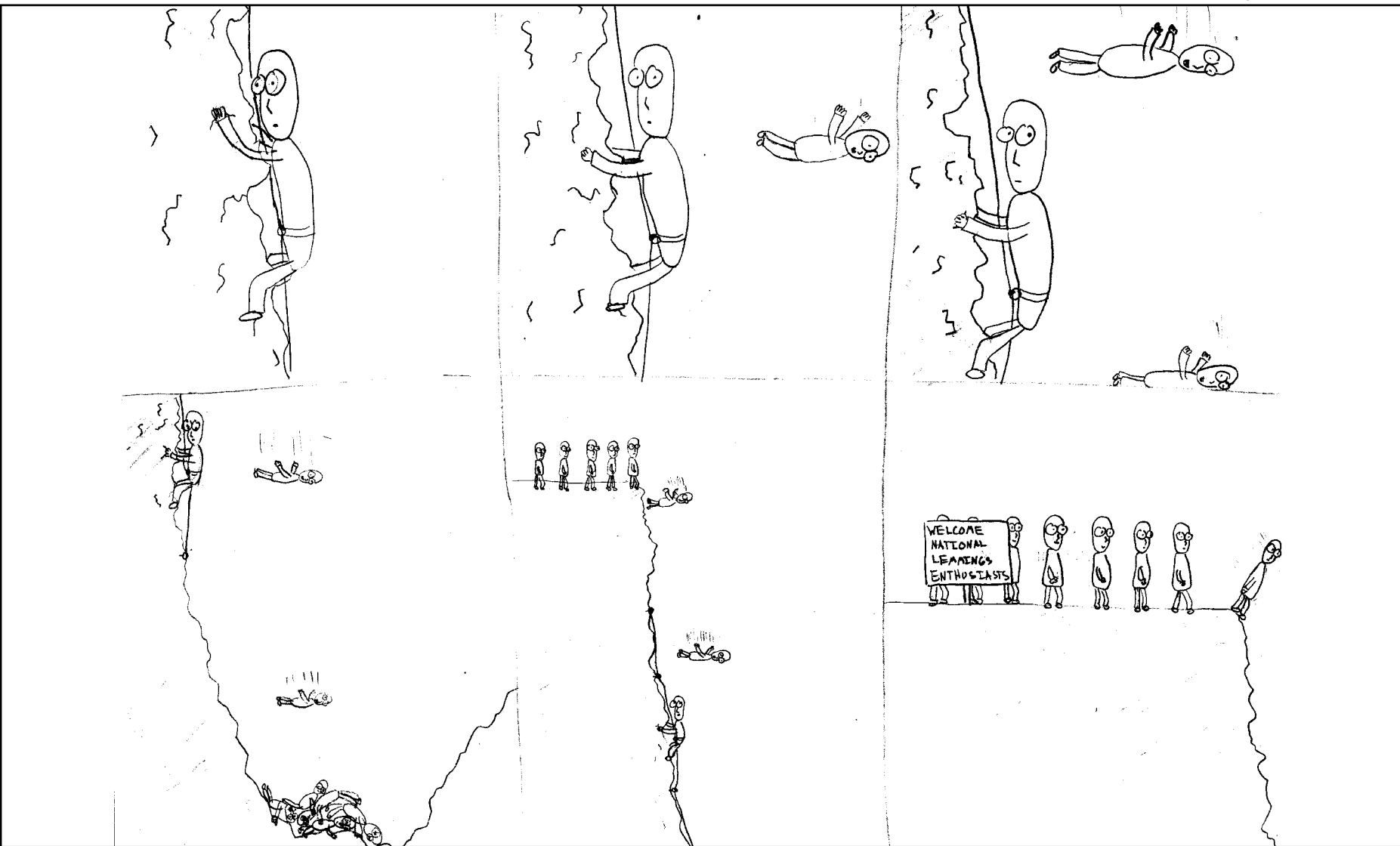
I Live in a Giant Bucket

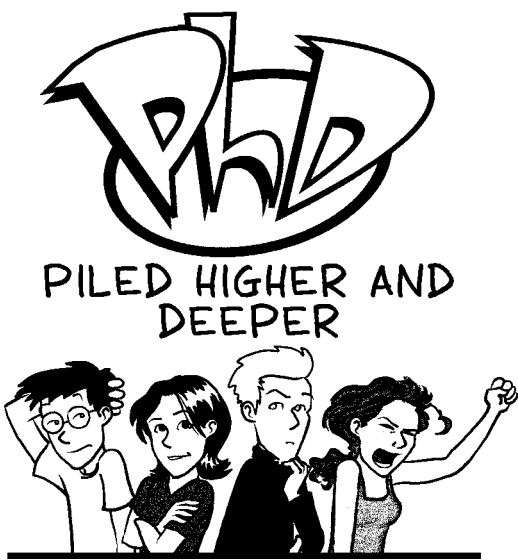
by Adam Love



I Live in a Giant Bucket

by Adam Love





**FoxTrot**    by Bill Amend

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**Crossword Puzzle**

*Solution, page 11*

- ACROSS

  - 1 Forbidden
  - 6 Witty remark
  - 10 First mate?
  - 14 Forum
  - 15 Bear in the sky
  - 16 Farm tower
  - 17 Gas burner
  - 19 Pitfall
  - 20 Approx.
  - 21 Double agent
  - 22 Peaceful
  - 24 Sweet course
  - 26 Chaos
  - 27 Launch area
  - 28 Kingly
  - 31 Kingly
  - 34 Prenatal
  - 35 Linden or Holbrook
  - 36 Outback runners
  - 37 Follow the scent
  - 38 Latvian capital
  - 39 Pierre's friend
- 40 Pearly whites
  - 41 Mountaineer's spike
  - 42 Dough to blow
  - 44 Outlaw
  - 45 Takes home
  - 46 Plumber's tool
  - 50 Derrick component
  - 52 As it \_\_\_ (so to speak)
  - 53 Flying letters
  - 54 East of the Urals
  - 55 Give a wide berth
  - 58 Ship
  - 59 Had an obligation
  - 60 Eagles' home
  - 61 "South Park" co-creator Parker
  - 62 Silent affirmatives
  - 63 Takes in roomers

DOWN

  - 1 Prerecorded
- 2 Crop up
  - 3 Big swigs
  - 4 Lennon's love
  - 5 Cookie variety
  - 6 Bee product
  - 7 Egg on
  - 8 Sort of: suff.
  - 9 Well-known wheel-spinner
  - 10 Houston pros
  - 11 Bull's-eye
  - 12 Astronaut Shepard
  - 13 Sulk
  - 18 Lady's mate
  - 23 Daredevil Knieval
  - 25 Spring resorts
  - 26 Break out of one's shell?
  - 28 Full of substance
  - 29 "Othello" evildoer
  - 30 Highlands family
  - 31 Paper quantity
- 32 Thompson of films
  - 33 Rule of thumb
  - 34 Liberates
  - 37 "Break, Break, Break" poet
  - 38 Skating place
  - 40 Ripped
  - 41 Daytona 500 starter
  - 43 Ailment
  - 44 Novelist Amelia
  - 46 Pays attention to
  - 47 Shock jock Howard
  - 48 Anticipate
  - 49 Inventory listings
  - 50 Days of old
  - 51 \_\_\_-friendly
  - 52 Garden invader
  - 56 Tango requirement
  - 57 Director Ang

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BEN GALLUP—THE TECH

# State of the Institute: Tranquil in the Dark

A transmission line failure at the Putnam Street substation caused a blackout across eastern Cambridge including much of the MIT campus.

(above) The interior of the Student Center stands empty of students. They were forced to evacuate the building because of a reported gas leak and fears that the darkened halls of the building posed a danger to students.

(right) The 12-182 Athena cluster sits dark. Emergency power systems did not keep the clusters running.

(below) A police officer turns people away outside the Student Center following the evacuation.



JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

(above) A “closed” sign is taped to the door of the student services center in Building 3 yesterday afternoon, although the staff were still accepting some payments. Many institute offices were closed during the power outage.

(below left) Students walk down a darkened infinite corridor during the power outage.

(below) With no classes to attend and driving rain outside, many students chose to sit or nap on the floor of Lobby 7 to pass the time.



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH





WENDY GU—THE TECH

Guest soloist Mark Harvey plays trumpet in his wind ensemble arrangement of “Caravan” by Ellington, Tizol, and Mills during the final Wind Ensemble concert of the semester in Kresge. The concert, entitled “Beyond: A Duke Ellington Commemoration,” celebrated the 105th anniversary of Ellington’s birth, and included a number of pieces by him, Bach, Harvey, and Grainger.

# Vendor Must Satisfy MIT Business Needs

Arrow Street, from Page 1

number one choice of the students, it depends on whether that vendor is “interested and agreeable to business with MIT.”

The vendor has a “niche to fill in the community,” Berlin said. He is not as concerned with the type of food offered because there are enough dining locations on campus that MIT does not “have to look at every location as satisfying every need.” He said the location is a good social space.

**Vendor must satisfy several needs**

The vendor must fit the community’s needs, MIT’s business needs, and be able to work well with the

Office of Campus Dining as well, Berlin said.

Berlin said the replacement should be “operationally and financially responsible.” He said it was important to have a “long term partner,” and to avoid another situation like the current one with Arrow St. Crepes.

Berlin said that the vendor must also “agree to a form of working with our office.” The Office of Campus Dining must approve the menu, prices, and hours of location of the vendor in order to protect student purchasing power, he said.

“The other thing we want to do is make sure it opens by the fall,” he added.

## Q bubble hopes to take over space

Nancy Chen, the owner of Q-Bubble, the vendor that had shared space with Arrow St. Crepes until they were forced to leave, said she hopes to obtain this contract. She is submitting a proposal to Berlin to create a location that would service Taiwanese, Cantonese, and Szechuan cuisine.

She said that she is willing to work out arrangements to address reasonable prices and later hours, if it gives her the opportunity to open this restaurant.

Berlin said that the decision would depend ultimately on the survey, though he also said that the limited equipment available at this location may not be appropriate for Asian-style cuisine.

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**Solution to Crossword**

from page 14

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# Biology Dept. To Grow

Institute, from Page 1

cuts have been thoroughly documented to aid the new president once Vest resigns.

Vest said that one of the reasons the budget cuts were made so severely and quickly was because the leadership of the Institute will change soon. “We do not want to pass on the problems of budget crisis to a new president, a new team,” Vest said.

Despite the tight budget, MIT will complete all of its current projects, Curry said. “We’ll complete the buildings under way, we’ll complete the payroll, then we’ll see,” he said. The payroll changes refer to an overhaul of the financial and reporting tools being used at MIT.

**Biology at MIT continues to grow**

Vest said that MIT will continue to increase its focus on biological sciences and credited the leadership in the faculty for the push for biology in research and curriculum.

Brown said that the growth in the Brain and Cognitive Sciences department as well as the incorporation of biology in all engineering disciplines within MIT will continue.

Originally scheduled to be held for two hours, the forum ended up lasting about 45 minutes because of the power loss.

Vest said that he liked holding the forum in Kresge lobby except that those attending were forced to stand. “It was kind of intimate,” he said.

As to whether Vest would consider giving the address in the same setting next year, “as long as I’m president, we’ll always do it that way,” he joked.

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# NSTAR Uncertain of Outage Cause; W20 Evacuated

Power Loss, from Page 1

the critical systems, Richard said. These buildings had priority over buildings with backup power for experiments during efforts to restore electricity, he said.

Student Center evacuated

The Student Center was evacuated because of a reported gas leak, and Building E52 was evacuated by the MIT Police because the generators did not take over electric power. “No building was supposed to be evacuated,” Richard said. “Buildings that were [evacuated] were instructed by the police and the fire department.”

“If there’s no light in the buildings, it’s not safe to be in there,” said MIT Police Chief John DiFava. The power outage “was lengthy and it was extensive, from Central Square up to the river,” he said.

The outage did not extend into Boston, Branda said.

The W20 evacuation, however, was caused by the smell of gas in the basement, DiFava said. “It didn’t turn out to be anything of a dangerous nature.”

Power outage affects MIT

A sense of calm settled over the Institute yesterday afternoon as students, faculty, and staff grew accustomed to life without electricity and

e-mail.

Athena clusters were deserted and students gathered together in Lobby 7 and on the steps of the evacuated Student Center, shielding themselves from the rain.

Trevor T. Chang ’07 noted that life seemed “a little less stressed” yesterday at what he called the “Massachusetts Institute Without Technology.”

Libraries remained open yesterday and books were checked out manually, said Deborah L. Helman, associate head of MIT libraries.

David B. Andre in the Student Service Center said that they were accepting payments throughout the afternoon but “as far as anything that requires the system, our hands are pretty much tied.”

Dining facilities across campus were closed during the outage, resulting in long lines at the lunch trucks.

“I wandered by the student center, and it appeared to be evacuated,” said Sharon M. Prange ’07. “I don’t know where else to eat.”

The power loss also contributed to the cancellation of several afternoon lectures and recitations, including the Differential Equations (18.03) lecture.

“I couldn’t get the class to leave the classroom,” said Professor Haynes R. Miller. “First I left and then they left.”

“We waited here with amazing patience, they paid more attention to me then than when the lights are on,” said Miller.

Some students, however, were not so pleased with the power loss. “I can’t work when there’s no power,” said Michael J. Mori G. “I need my instruments.”

“I hope there’s power soon,” said George M. Eng ’06 during yesterday’s outage. “I wonder what the SIPB people are doing.”

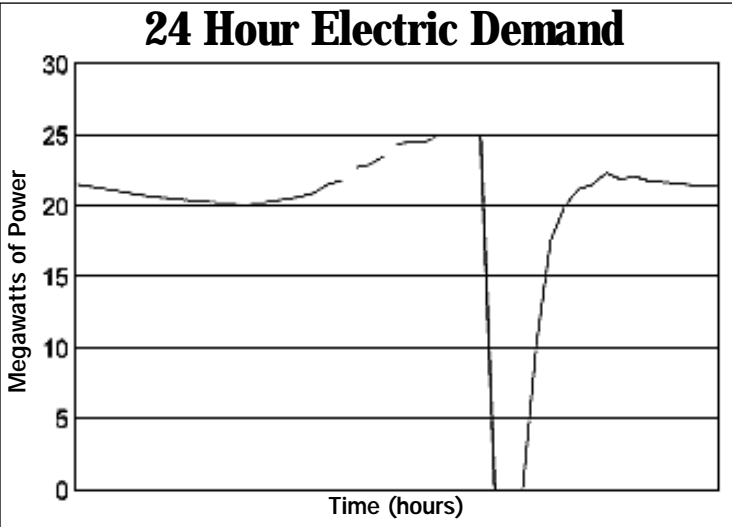
NSTAR uncertain of failure cause

As of last night, NSTAR had not determined the cause of the transmission line failures. “We have engineers that are looking into what exactly happened,” Branda said.

In addition to losing power in the Cambridge, NSTAR’s computer systems were down yesterday, said Mike Butler, a NSTAR customer service representative.

“I don’t think that the power failure is linked to the computer systems,” Branda said.

NSTAR was conducting some power tests when the equipment failure occurred. “Cambridge was



MIT’s power plant’s Web site, tracking generator output, shows the outage.

doing a scheduled test and the generator did not come back on,” said DiFava. “They were doing a test at their Putnam location and that was the start of the issue.”

A power outage of this magnitude has occurred only once in recent his-

tory. “There was one in ’97 that was a city wide failure,” Cooper said. “When that fault occurred, we were tripped off of the grid.”

Kelley Rivoire and Marissa Vogt contributed to the reporting of this story.

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# The Quiet Trophy: Team Rings

By Yong-Yi Zhu  
*COLUMNIST*

Getting my Brass Rat Friday night got me thinking about sports rings and sports championships. MIT is not so different from a sport anyway: it's physically demanding, it's mentally painful and if you can do well enough, you can get yourself a little ring to boot.

Okay, so MIT is not the NBA, NFL or MLB. But in a way, the Brass Rat is the championship ring of engineers. For us, the rat is a way of representing our life at MIT and showing all that we have endured in the quest for our degree. But our ring is distributed at the end of our sophomore year, not at graduation. In sports, that is the equivalent of giving everyone that makes the playoffs a championship ring.

If the professional sports gave out their rings this way, Karl Malone and Gary Payton would each have a ton of rings, and consequently would not need to sell their souls to the Lakers to get a shot at winning one. The Buffalo Bills would have gotten four rings in a row in the nineties, and would not have been such a disappointment even with the kick of Scott Norwood.

But something else struck me considering sports rings: why give out rings at all? Don't the athletes hoist an enormous trophy to signify their winning of a championship? Why make little pieces of jewelry that can be adorned on their fingers, but most will keep in a little velvet box?

Perhaps rings signify a sense of unity. The team won a championship together and therefore the team members should all wear something similar; a ring is an unobtrusive item that can be worn in any occasion. Wearing a ring identifies not the individuals on that championship team, but the team itself. Just think, after the San Antonio Spurs' championship run last year, Tim Duncan gets the same ring as Mengke Bateer, even though Duncan was a tad more productive in the postseason. Anyone who owns a particular ring had to go through the same kinds of experiences as anyone else with the same ring. Perhaps that's why championship rings are only advertised to the members of the team to which it is going.

Just try to remember whether you have ever seen a sport's championship ring. We know what the trophies look like, but the fans are

never made aware of how the rings look. It's because the trophies represent the more public half of the team's accomplishments, while the ring showcases each individual's pride in the team's overall achievement.

For example, the Marlins accomplished something quite remarkable last year beating the New York Yankees to win the World Series. When I heard that the Marlins' World Series ring this year was one of the biggest rings ever, I got interested in how it looked. With 228 white diamonds, 13 rubies and a teal diamond representing the eye of the marlin, this baby weighs in at around a quarter of a pound! One would imagine that something this prominent would be on some Web site somewhere, and one would be wrong. It's hard to find even a more detailed description of that ring.

I guess sports rings are publicized that little because they are designed for each team or group to appreciate. Who outside of MIT would understand Kresge or IHTFP? Better yet, who outside of MIT would appreciate those things? Maybe that's why we never really explain our rings to outsiders. And maybe that's why the sports teams don't show their rings to us.

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And what on earth is Election 2004 about? Does anyone have a clue? Does the *New York Times* help us understand? Are things worse than ever? Are things better than we know?



Author Alex Cockburn publishes *Counterpunch* & writes a column for *The Nation*. Noam Chomsky is a critic of US foreign policy & an Institute Professor at MIT.

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# SPORTS

## Not an Awful Curse: Sox Still Win

By Brian Chase  
SPORTS EDITOR

A few weeks ago, ESPN.com created a “misery rating” of baseball teams, trying to quantify how much

### Column

suffering fans of a given baseball team had had to endure over the years. The article made me think about the long-suffering Red Sox fans, and it drove me to this conclusion: they’re lucky. Red Sox fans, in my mind, should be envied, not pitied, because while the Red Sox suffer playoff disappointment year after year, their fans are in a much better place than the fans of teams like the Kansas City Royals or the Milwaukee Brewers, who don’t inspire enough love for most potential fans to feel anything for the team.

Recently I had a chance to attend a Red Sox game as a *Tech* sports writer. I had a great time, and my experience showed how devoted and enthusiastic the fans were. They screamed, sighed, cheered and said “AAWWWW” almost in unison. Even though the Red Sox were winning 7–2 after the first inning, most of the fans stayed around until the end of the game. It was a really encouraging thing to see (and hear). It proved to me that as much as they might suffer in September, the Sox fans enjoy the heck out of the rest of the baseball season.

This is in stark contrast to teams

like the Brewers or Royals. Those teams are so bad that their fans cannot hold any aspirations for the playoffs at all, and the baseball season turns into one long parade of crushed hope and despair. And even when these cellar-dwelling teams do have some moderate success, it is often a fleeting and temporary illusion that betray fans into believing their teams are finally climbing out of their hole, only to go through the same disappointment and despair the next season.

Take the Royals, for example. Last year they had their first winning season for almost a decade, and at one point were in first place in their division by seven games. Although they faded down the stretch, they left tons of KC fans excited for this season and ready to finally believe in the Royals again. So what happened? Through last Saturday the Royals are 7–15, dead last in their division and showing no signs that they will be able to recover. Now some people might even believe they will lose 100 games again. And now Royals fans are left once again with the prospect of a long season of pain, hoping only that the Royals win a series, or don’t look too bad, much less get into the playoffs. The Brewers fans are probably going through a similar sense of hopelessness and despair.

The parallel between these teams recall the old axiom “better to have loved and lost than never to have

loved at all.” The Red Sox fans love their team and that binds them as a community, gives them a lot of entertainment for most of the summer, and gives them something to be proud about for their city. So what if they lose in the playoffs every year? They always have hope that next year they will finally get it, because they have a good team with a firm foundation. The fans of the bad teams, though, never get the satisfaction or the intense pride that Red Sox fans can claim, they have “never loved at all.”

So I say to those Red Sox fans who moan about Bucky Dent and Bill Buckner and never winning the series: stop complaining. All that whining about your curses may look pretty spoiled to a Royals or Brewers fan. You have a good team, with excellent starting pitching, the potential for enormous hitting power, and decent fielding skills. Enjoy this ballclub for the summer, and when (or if) they lose in the playoffs, shrug it off and think of the good times they gave you over the summer. I realize that that may be hard to do the day after Aaron Boone has hit his home run and Pedro has gone down in flames, but over the long term that kind of attitude will, I think, result in Red Sox fans getting more respect from other fans around the league, and maybe more enjoyment from their team. After all, baseball has a long, long season, it isn’t right to let seven games ruin the fun of the the 162.

## MIT Dances Bolero, Tango, Wins Contest

By Jessica A. Lee  
TEAM MEMBER

This weekend, Rockwell Cage echoed not with the squeak of sneakers but with strains of waltz and samba. Athletes



approached the Z-center at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning to participate in the 2004 MIT Open Ballroom Dance Competition, tailsuits and evening dresses draped over their arms. With 2,436 entries — 372 couples total with 37 affiliations — this year’s competition hosted by the MIT Ballroom Dance Team was smaller than last year’s, but impressive nonetheless.

Most impressive was MIT’s performance: in the overall team standings (based on points won by every couple that places in the final) MIT finished with 1094 points, while the closest runner-up, Boston University, mustered only 447 points.

A good part of the win may be credited to the rookies, who have performed outstandingly and consistently all season: Steve Zhang ’02 & Esther Ryvkina placed 2nd overall in Beginner Smooth, unbeatable except by another MIT couple, F. Joseph Pompei PhD ’02 & Jin Zhou G, who took 1st. Pompei & Zhou also took 2nd overall in Beginner Standard and placed in the finals for all Beginner Rhythm and Latin events.

MIT’s Intermediate dancers were no less spectacular. In Standard, Wei An G & Zeynep I. Inanoglu G placed 3rd overall. Tyree W. Harris G & Yana Averbukh ’05 took the 1st-place overall prize for Intermediate Latin, and Victor Tu & Jessica A. Lee ’05 won 1st overall in Intermediate Smooth.

Among MIT’s victories at the Advanced Level, Christopher C.

Stratton ’97 & Katarzyna Herink placed in the top 3 in every Standard dance; in Smooth, Bradley J. Morrison & Margaret A. Wong ’02 took 3rd in Tango and 5th in Foxtrot/Viennese Waltz.

The weekend’s excitement peaked on Saturday afternoon, when competitors and spectators crowded the floor to watch the Pre-Championship and Championship events (in Pre-Champ and Champ, competitors are not restricted to a syllabus of permitted steps).

At the Pre-Champ level, MIT’s Boris Berdnikov ’98 & Carrie L. Sougnez placed second in the Latin 4-dance, while the Standard 4-dance final was dominated by four couples from MIT: Iuliu Vasilescu G & Irina Nikiforova in sixth, Lingze Duan PhD ’03 & Mildred Yuan in fourth, Harris & Ekatarina V. Lesnaia G in third, and William P. Liteplo SM ’00 & Ika Setyawati in first.

In the Championship events, at least one MIT couple placed in each of the four styles: Mark A. Herschberg ’95 & partner, 6th and Liteplo & Michelle Goldhaber, 5th in the Rhythm 5-dance (ChaCha/Ruma/Swing/Bolero/Mambo); Liteplo & Setyawati, 4th in the Smooth 4-dance (Waltz/Tango/Foxtrot/Viennese Waltz); Carlos A. Lopez ’03 & Genevieve T. Cuevas G, 3rd in the Latin 5-dance (ChaCha/Samba/Rumba/PasoDoble/Jive); and Igor Pavlovsky MS ’03 & Yanfeng Lin, 2nd in the Standard 5-dance (Waltz/Tango/Foxtrot/Quickstep/Viennese Waltz).

For many dancers, the MIT Open was the last competition of the season, and a satisfying one. A good many couples who performed well were not mentioned in this article; to find more results and see hundreds of pictures, visit <http://ballroom.mit.edu/comp>.

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